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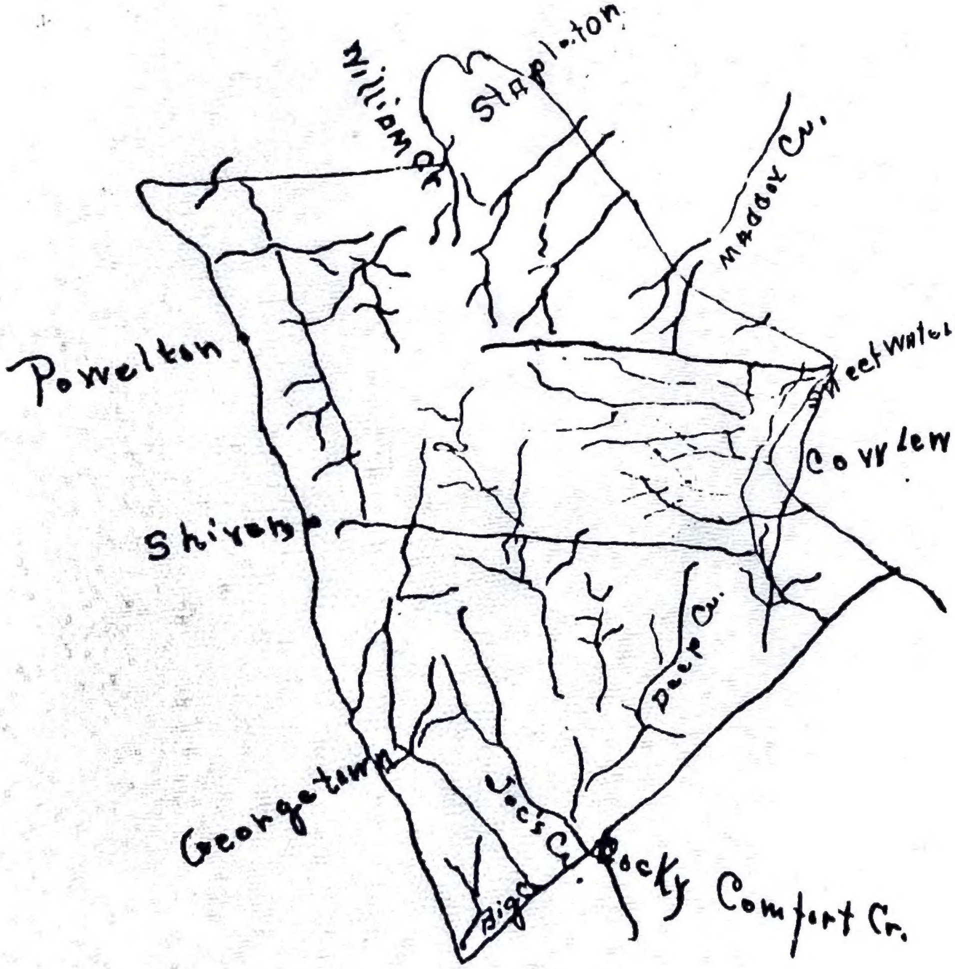
Map of Warren County – Made in 1818.



CREEKS

Rock
Camp
Clay Bank
Long
Joe's
Big
Rocky Comfort
Deep
Beech Tree
Briar
White
Little Briar
Town
Carson
Harris

TOWNS

Shivers
Powelton
Birds Iron Works
Georgetown
Coles Iron Works
Warrenton

CHAPTER 1

General History

Oh, Warren, dear old Warren
I love thy red old hills
Thy pastures green, thy flowing creeks,
And all thy laughing rills,
God gave to thee with lavish hands,
And blessed thee with His bounty
And made of thee, Oh Warren dear,
Our fair state's fairest County.

Fortunate and happy are the people who live in Warren County, for it is indeed the garden-spot of the world. Lying as it does, almost in the middle section of Georgia, it is removed from the shores of the Atlantic a sufficient distance to escape tidal waves and rough gales. It is on no large waterways which sometimes rise into homes and destroy, in a few days, the accumulations of a lifetime; no volcano is near to terrify the natives by its restless grumblings and keep them watchful and anxious.

The Creator was lavish with His gifts to old Warren. He tinted her sunsets with the most brilliant hues of gold, orange, purple, and red. Her forests hold every shade of green from the lightest chrome to the deepest emerald. Her fields lie placid in the warm rays of the temperate sun, and her waters sing a song of prosperity as they glide along to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

The history of Warren County as a separate entity precedes the birth of the Nation whose Bicentennial we are commemorating with this publication. Many of the old deeds recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Warren County refer to certain plots of land lying east of the '82 degree 40' parallel (which runs almost through the center of Warrenton) as being derived from grants from King George III of England. The rest of the land lying to the west was described as being wild land. During colonial times it was a part of what was then known as St. Paul's Parish.

On December 19, 1793, in the 18th year of the independence of the United States, Warren County was constituted as the 20th county in the

state of Georgia by Governor George Matthews. Parts of the counties of Richmond, Columbia, and Wilkes were taken to form the new county. It was given the name Warren in honor of one of the Revolutionary patriots, General Joseph E. Warren, who was born at Roxbury, Massachusetts, in 1741, and fell mortally wounded at the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775.

The county is 26 miles in length, 16 miles in breadth, and contains 404 square miles. It forms one of the 12 counties that go to make up the Tenth Congressional District and is combined with Taliaferro and Greene into what is known as the 19th Senatorial District. It is also in the Toombs Judicial Circuit and was once in the Northern Circuit. It is bound on the north by Taliaferro and Wilkes with Little River dividing it from Wilkes; on the east by McDuffie; on the south by Jefferson and Glascock; and on the west by Hancock with the Ogeechee River between.

Warren County boundaries were defined as follows: "To begin at Megeehee (McGahee) bridge on the Ogeechee River, thence along a road leading from the bridge to Chicksha Ford on Briar Creek; thence up Briar Creek to the mouth of Sweet Water; thence up said creek to Watson's Mill; from thence to the path known by the name of "the Old Line Path" to Hodgins; from thence a straight line to Starks Old Mill on Little River; thence up the river to the mouth of Williams Creek; thence up said creek to the mouth of Beaverdam; thence a straight line to the Ogeechee so as to include the plantation of Col. Alexander and down the Ogeechee to the beginning, which said County shall be known as Warren."

The climate is mild, frost often occurring as late as November 15. However, there is enough cold weather to kill the old vegetation and to enable farmers to kill and cure their supplies of meat without artifical means. There are only a few periods of very uncomfortable cold weather.

The lands in the upper part of the county are loamy and rich with a clay subsoil. The woods abound in oak, poplar, hickory, sycamore, and blackgum trees. The middle section becomes less hilly and the red clay subsoil gives way to clay of a chocolate hue, growing lighter in color. Finally in the lower part of the county the stretches of even fields are sandy and pine trees are indigenous to this soil.

Among the first settlers who came in 1790 were Dan Atkins, Sol. Newsome, David Neal, Wm. Johnston, Job Hill, A. Denton, Wm. Cason, S. Burnley, B. Upton, E. Perryman, E. Conner, A. Brinkley, Wm. Jenkins, A. Jones, M. English, C. Lowe, Sr., D. A. Simpson, Thos. Maddus, Ephriam Ivy, Jno. Burkhalter, E. Wilson, Tom Persons, Tom Lockett, Sam Bell, Jonas Shivers, Barnaby Shivers, Peter and Jno. Newsome, Elisha Hunt, Benj. Harris, Sam Beall, Jno. Williams, Richard Dozier, Johnathan Baker, Wm. Denmark, J. W. Jenkins, C. Sturdevant, Jno. Wilson, Capt. Hill and Robt. Augustus Beall.

From an old document dated Dec. 13th, 1793 containing the names of the commissioned officers in the Militia Regiment, a supplementary list of the early settlers, are found the names of Samuel Alexander, Lieut. Col., Jno. Lawson and Solomon Slatter, Majors; David Neal, Absolom Cobbs, James Wilson, Chapman Abercrombie, Jesse Bunkley, Nicholas Jones, Wm. Smith, Wm. Hill, Abner Llewellyn, Captains; Wm. Landrum and Gibson Flournoy were lieutenants.

The whereabouts of the center of County government from its establishment in 1793 until the founding of the City of Warrenton in 1787 is

TRIBUTE PAID TO WARREN BY GEORGE WALTON

JUNE TERM, 1795 – Minute Book A, pages 28-29

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, this being the last court to be held in the present Western Circuit for the new counties, and make it the occasion to mention that although no additional compensation has been afforded to the Judges for the extra trouble, the expense of riding to them, I have done it with satisfaction because it was doing the business of the people and promoting the general good. Activated by motives more immediately affecting themselves, you will attend with fidelity to the duties assigned to the Grand Inquest. These are in general to prevent the breaches of the peace and of the public laws. In the first instance, it will be acting upon such business and in such form as shall be laid before you by the attorney general. In the second, upon such as shall come to your knowledge by other means. In both cases you will proceed like free and independent men who can feel no influence but justice and no authority but the law. A third part of your business will be to execute the laws made to decide between individuals, and the truth is honorable, and important men discussing contests of your fellow citizens being confided to you, in the last resort, in these pursuits you will be an associating interest in the name of your county.

Perhaps few men ever united more various or greater talents than did General Warren. Deriving superior advantages from nature, his business was highly cultivated and fitted for the great theater of events at the commencement of the American Revolution, having participated in all the preparatory councils of his country, was equally prompt to a fight in framing an army to repel its enemies. To this he became a general officer and early fell in the trying conflict at Bunker Hill, a conflict which first taught the imperious Britons that they had men to contend with in the New World.

To the eloquent persuasions of the orator urging the rights of human nature, he added the profound skill of the statesman with the action and vigor of a great captain, and the premature fall of so much worth, instead of depressing, kindled new zeal in the breasts of his countrymen.

The tribute of gratitude paid to his memory by the legislature has been done and the name should be more than acceptable to you.

–George Walton

Jeremiah
Jer. Duckworth.

GEORGE THE THIRD, by the Grace of GOD, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, and so forth. *To all to whom these Presents shall come*, *GREETING*. KNOW YE, That we, of Our special Grace, certain knowledge, and meer Motion,

300 acres.

have Given and Granted, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Do Give and Grant unto Jer. Duckworth, his heirs & assigns, all that tract of land containing three hundred acres, situate, lying and being in the Parish of Saint Paul in our Province of Georgia; bounded on all sides by vacant land ——

St. Paul

Dated 19th. Jany.
Regd 8th April
1773.

Having such Shape, Form, and Marks, as appears by a Plat thereof hereunto annexed, together with all Woods, Underwoods, Timber and Timber Trees, Lakes, Ponds, Fishings, Waters, Water-Courses, Profits, Commodities, Hereditaments, and Appurtenances whatsoever, thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, together also with Privilege of Hunting, Hawking, and Fowling, in and upon the same, and all Mines and Minerals whatsoever; *Saving and Reserving*, nevertheless, to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, all *White Pine Trees*, if any should be found growing thereon: *And also Saving and Reserving*, to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, *One Tenth* Part of Mines of *Silver* and *Gold* only. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of three hundred acres of land and all and singular other the Premises hereby granted, with the Appurtenances, unto the said Jeremiah Duckworth, his heirs or assigns forever.

In free and common Soccage, he the said Jeremiah Duckworth, his Heirs or Assigns, *Yielding and Paying* therefor, unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, or to our Receiver-General for the Time being, or to his Deputy or Deputies for the Time being, yearly and every Year, on the *Twenty-fifth* Day of *March*, at the rate of *Two Shillings Sterling* for every *Hundred* Acres, and so in Proportion, according to the Quantity of Acres contained herein, the same to commence at the End and Expiration of two Years from the Date hereof. PROVIDED ALWAYS, and this present Grant is upon Condition nevertheless, That he the said Jeremiah Duckworth, his Heirs or Assigns, shall and do, within three years after the Date hereof, for every *Fifty* Acres of plantable Land hereby granted, clear and work *Three* Acres at least, in that Part thereof as he or they shall judge most convenient and advantageous, or else do clear and drain *Three* Acres of Swamp or sunken Grounds, or drain *Three* Acres of Marsh, if any such contained herein: and shall and do, within the Time aforesaid, put and keep, upon every *Fifty* Acres thereof accounted barren, *Three* neat Cattle or *Six* Sheep or Goats, and continue the same thereon until *Three* Acres for every *Fifty* Acres be fully cleared and improved, or otherwise, if any Part of the said Tract shall be stony or Rocky Ground, and not fit for Planting or Pasture, shall and do, within *Three* years as aforesaid, begin to employ thereon, and so continue to work for *Three* Years then next ensuing, in digging any Stone Quarry, or Coal, or other Mine, *One* good and able Hand for every *Hundred* Acres, it shall be accounted a sufficient Cultivation and Improvement. PROVIDED ALSO, That every *Three* Acres which shall be cleared and worked, or cleared and drained as aforesaid, shall be accounted a sufficient Seating, Planting, Cultivation and Improvement, to save for ever from Forfeiture, *Fifty* Acres of Land in any Part of the Tract hereby granted. And the said Jeremiah Duckworth, his Heirs and Assigns, shall be at Liberty to withdraw his or their Stock, or to forbear working in any Quarry or Mine, in Proportion to such Cultivation and Improvements as shall be made upon the plantable Lands, Swamps, sunken Grounds, or Marshes, herein contained. And, if the said Rent hereby reserved shall happen to be in Arrear and unpaid, for the Space of *One* Year from the Time it shall become due, and no Distress can be found on the said Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, hereby granted, that then, and in such Case, the said Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, hereby granted, and every Part and Parcel thereof, shall revert to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, as fully and absolutely as if the same had never been granted. PROVIDED ALSO, if this Grant shall not be duly registered in the Register Office of Our said Province, within *Six* Months from the Date hereof, and a Docquet thereof also entered in the Auditor's-Office of the same, That then this Grant shall be void, any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. Given under the Great Seal of Our Province of GEORGIA. Witness Our Trusty and Well-beloved James Habersham, Esqr, President & Commander in Chief of our said Province, the nineteenth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, 1773 and in the thirteenth Year of Our Reign.

(L.S.) James Habersham.

Signed by his honor James Habersham, Esqr, President in Council - - Alexr. Wylly, C.C.

From: Page 851 of original Grant Book I
on file and of official record in the Georgia Surveyor General Department, Office of Secretary of State, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

not known as a matter of record. It is assumed that it was at or near the present site of Warrenton, quite possibly just north of the Georgia Railroad, as an older deed to property on which to build a church for the Methodists and Baptists can be identified as being on the north side of the Railroad and the west side of what is now Norwood Street.

The City of Warrenton, the first and only county seat, came into being by the following instrument. "GEORGIA:

This indenture made this eighth day of April in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Seven and the Twenty First of American Independence Between Starling Gardner of the County of Warren and the State aforesaid of the one part, and the Honorable the Inferior Court of the County and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth, that the said Starling Gardner and Polley his wife, have given, granted, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents doth fully, freely, absolutely and entirely give, grant, convey, enfeoff, and confirm, unto the above Said Judges of the Inferior Court, and Their successors in Office, all that tract or parcel of Land Situate, lying and being in the County and State aforesaid, and near Goldwin's Creek, on the Road leading to Augusta, (to wit.) Beginning at a persimmon tree and running from thence to a stake bound by said Gardner on the East, from thence to a stake, bound by P. Gardner, on the South; from thence to a lightwood Stump, bound by Said Gardner on the West, from thence to the Beginning persimmon bound by Said Gardner containing (Seven Acres), The Same being to be applied to County purposes (to wit) the purpose of laying off into Lots, for erecting public Buildings, and other purposes, Reserving nevertheless one choice lot to said Gardner, after the publick Lots are designated, and as For me the Starling Gardner, and Polly his wife, our Heirs Exrt, or Admst. will will and truly warrant and forever defend said land and premises, together with all rights, profits, and advantages thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining, against the claim or claims of any person or persons whatsoever, unto the above said Judges of the Inferior Court, and their successors in office. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this day and year above written. Signed and acknowledged in Open Court.

(s) T. Persons Clk. of S. Court. Starling Gardner (Seal)

Polley Gardner (Seal)

+Together with free privelege of Timber to complet the publick Buildings, and also free and entire privelege of the Spring or Springs on Said Gardner's land, containing three Hundred Acres – and the most of either, to the Said Seven acres. Recorded the 10th of April 1797.

L. Tucker CSC

Before the establishment of Warrenton as the County Seat, the Stage Coach road from Augusta to Milledgeville ran about three miles south of Warrenton on a direct line between Augusta and Mayfield. From there it ran to Sparta and on to Milledgeville. With the establishment of the Town of Warrenton, the route was changed to come through Warrenton following the Old Augusta Road via East Warrenton. The stopover point was the Old Eagle Tavern run by the Heath Family. This tavern stood at the northwest corner of the intersection of what is now Main and Norwood Streets. It was the choice lot (Lot No. 4). which Starling Gardner reserved for himself in the deed preceding. The Hubert family purchased the lot on the northeast corner but the numerical layout of the rest of the city property does not

appear to be recorded. From the layout of the older properties it would appear that the present commercial buildings on the north and south sides of Main Street were later built on what was originally the Town Square surrounding the Court House, as the original identifiable plots seem to be North and South of what is now known as the business district.

The land on which the Courthouse stands in Warrenton was donated by Starling Gardner and his wife Polly in 1897. The first building erected on this site burned in 1853, destroying some of the record books from the 1814-1844 period. In 1908, the second Courthouse was destroyed by fire, but only one record book was damaged. The present Courthouse was built in 1909.

Warren County was evidently populated quickly, or was a County formed from a well-populated area prior to formation. The first census conducted by John Hopson and Hardin Pruitt in 1800 lists a population of 8,329. This was broken down into 6,252 whites, 2,058 slaves and 19 free persons of color. Most of this population appears to have been concentrated in the area along Briar Creek from near Keysville to Wrightsboro, as deeds to property in the late 1700's refer to lands along Rocky Comfort Creek as being "Wild Lands."

In 1796, an area in the southern part of the County was given by the Legislature to Jefferson County; and in 1857, portions were allocated to Taliaferro and Glascock. In 1870 McDuffie County was formed from parts of Warren and Columbia Counties.

Why was Warren County area settled so early? The first venturers into Indian Country were the traders. They followed the water courses and the Indian Trails. The Indians, the Lower Creeks and the Chickasaws, were part-time farmers and yet migratory. In the winter months they traveled South to the coast for comfort and food. Shell fish such as oysters, clams and crab were easy to gather. In the spring they would travel back to their hunting and fishing and farming grounds. The squaws would plant maize while the bucks hunted and fished. There is evidence of a concentration of villages in this area by the artifacts which have been found along Goldens and Whetstone Creeks.

There are 1560 farmers in the county (1930's) and the chief products are corn, cotton, oats, peanuts, potatoes, sugar cane, cantaloupes, vetch, hay, wheat, poultry, and eggs. It is a fine nut growing section and a number of tons of paper shell pecans are shipped to northern markets each fall. It is also famous for its fine peaches. Georgia Bells, Hileys, and Elbertas are the most popular varieties and they leave the county in carloads lots. Watermelons, too, are shipped to northern markets. Fine pasture lands make cattle and hog raising profitable. Several carloads of hogs are shipped annually, netting the farmers neat profits.

Tobacco was the principal money crop. There was a great demand for it in England and the Surgeon General's office of the United Sates was two hundred years away from declaring that it might be injurious to one's health.

The tobacco was gathered, cured, and packed in a tobacco "hogshead" (a five foot diameter barrel made of wooden staves). Then thill (shafts) were attached to axles made on to each end of the hogshead. A horse or mule was hitched between them, a saddle was then put on the animal, and the farmer rolled his crop to a landing on the Savannah River below Augusta along what is now known as Tobacco Road.

Corn was planted for food and for forage for the working animals. Cotton, also an indigenous plant, was raised primarily for home use in providing clothing. There was, then, no method of separating the lint from the seed except pulling it off by hand. This was such a difficult task that a person who could fill his shoe with seed from a day's pulling was considered an excellent picker.

The lint was then carded by hand, spun, and woven or knitted into the rough wearing apparel customary of that date. Homespun garments were often not bleached or dyed, but they were tough and serviceable. Broad cloth and lace were definitely not a part of the early scene.

After the War for Independence, the lands, west of the 82nd parallel were taken over by the newly established Congress. During the war, scrip was often issued in lieu of cash. This applied to soldiers' pay also. This scrip could be paid off in land, and those patriots who had accepted scrip in lieu of pay could redeem it with a grant of 160 acres of government owned lands. Any veteran or widow of such could apply and receive such a grant.

The custom of primogeniture (whereby the oldest son inherited the entire estate of his parents) still was practiced in some of the states, especially in Virginia, and a number of these "second sons" as well as many veterans took advantage of these provisions to become land owners in their own right. Many of these land grant "takers" came from Hampton County, Virginia, and their names are still borne by their descendants in Warren County today. Others came, contributed their efforts, and moved on to "greener pastures." Among these was the family of John Lamar, a planter who owned a large plantation on the Ogeechee River near Mayfield. Two sons, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus (1797-1834) and Mirabeau Buonaparte (1798-1859) were born while the father was a resident of Warren County. These boys at ages nine and ten lived at "The Dormitory" and attended Warrenton Academy. John Lamar moved to Putnam County, Georgia, when L. Q. C. Lamar (the father of Justice Lamar) was a child. Mirabeau distinguished himself in the Texas War for Independence and became the second president of the Republic of Texas.

These newcomers brought ability and know how as well as industry to Georgia. Colonel Richard Byrd came from Virginia and established the first woolen mill and the first iron foundry known as Cowles Iron Works, in Georgia at Georgetown near the Shoals of the Ogeechee.

Another early resident of Warren County was Dr. David Bushnell, of Connecticut. After his submarine was unsuccessful in an attempt to sink a British ship in New York harbor in 1776, Dr. Bushnell came to Warren County. He shortened his name to Bush, and his family did not know of his whereabouts until his death. The first records of the municipal council of Warrenton list David Bush as an officer.

In the early 1800's, the farmers found that tobacoo was depleting the soil, and for best results had to be planted on newly cleared ground. So each year the farmer would clear and plant an additional acreage, but by then the cotton gin had been perfected to commercial use. The worn out tobacco ground was converted to cotton, and cotton flourished.

In the early 1800's, William Shivers established the first cotton mill in the county. It was located at what is now known as Jewell but was then known as Rock Mill. In 1856, it was sold to the firm of Jewell, Bodfish, and Elridge. Later it was sold to the Gant brothers who came to the county from Burlington, North Carolina. This mill was in continuous operation until

1927, when it was destroyed by fire.

As more land was cleared for tobacco, more land was available for planting cotton. However, more labor was required for the increased acreage and it could only be obtained by buying or hiring additional help.

The plantation system thus developed and cotton replaced tobacco as "KING." The demand for cotton was so great that buyers from England and France came to Georgia to bid against the Northern spinners. Plantation owners made money, they bought more land, brought in more labor. They hired overseers to take care of the day to day operation and concentrated their energy on building a finer house and having better horses and carriages than their neighbors.

Homemade furniture and log houses gave way to fine workmanship. In the houses of the successful the best quality of furniture, china, and silver were found. Silk and lace replaced the homespun garments. Carriages replaced the carts and wagons, and roads were improved and widened for more travel. The steam engine was placed on wheels and made to propel itself as well as pull a load. Railroads were built into the areas that were not accessible by water. Before the Macon branch of the Georgia Railroad was built, a mule car brought passengers to and from Warrenton and stopped where the United Methodist Church now stands. When the Macon branch was completed, Gen. DeBeaugrine was its first engineer.

And then came WAR . . . Hardly a household was not affected as fathers and sons marched off to fight. They expected a short victorious campaign and that they would be home before the "first frost." But the war dragged on. Surplus supplies were soon used up, and there were few men left to operate the farms. Many women took over the operation of the farms and kept them going on a reduced scale. Men were conscripted for service, but a wealthy man could hire a substitute to take his place. There is one contract recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court in which a bond of $10,000. was given guaranteeing that the replacement's family would be cared for in the event of his death or disability. As pay, the subsitute was given $100 in cash, all of his debts were paid, and all of his family's expenses paid until he returned.

When the war was finally over and the men came home, they found many changes. Warren County was not put to the torch as were some of the counties lying in the path of Sherman's March, but stragglers did pillage some sections and run off or steal the livestock.

Many of the idle fields were grown up in trees and bushes. The former slaves were now free to come and go as they pleased and to work or not as they chose. A new system destined to last for almost the next hundred years developed. The landowners had no one to work their fields and the workers had no land to farm, so "Share cropping" developed. In this system the landlord furnished a cropper the land, the equipment, the stock, a house to live in, and advanced the expenses of the food and other necessities. This advance was called the "run." When the crops were harvested and sold, they "settled up." This was usually done on Christmas Eve.

In the settling up, the money was divided and the "run" deducted from the worker's share. The next year it started all over again.

The plantation system survived. The only difference was that instead of the workers living in quarters and working the fields under the supervision of the overseers, the farms were soon dotted with individual frame dwellings.

Each had its own barn, cow lot, and one or two mules. The number depended on the size of the worker's family. A one-horse farm was 10 to 12 acres of cotton and 15 acres of corn. If he had a son old enough to plow, he became a "two-horse" farmer. There was usually little or no education offered the families of the share croppers; and when the children became old enough to work, they went to the fields. There was little chance for advancement; and as soon as the children married, they usually became share croppers.

The farmer's work week was five and one-half days. On Saturday at noon the mule was unhitched from the plow and hitched to the wagon. The family loaded up and went to town where they bought supplies for the next week and visited. It was not uncommon for as many as 2000 to be on the streets in Warrenton on Saturday afternoon. There was a curfew, and at 11 p.m. a siren was blown and the sidewalks were cleared.

On Sundays the farmers walked to church or to visit as the mules had to be rested on Sundays until the crop was "laid by." This was the time when cultivation was discontinued in mid July. The farmers then enjoyed a short rest before the harvest began in August.

A peculiar trading pattern developed in that the landlords often paid the merchants who supplied them only once a year. They did not shop around but singled out one merchant to deal with and paid his prices plus carrying charges. This practice survived until the 1930's.

Life styles began to change somewhat with the coming of World War I, in 1917. The war-inflated prices and assembly-line production of the automobile brought cars in range of more people. The automobile made the people more mobile. Better roads were required to handle the increased speed. Roads had to be widened so that two cars could meet. With the improved dirt roads one could drive to Augusta and back in the same day.

After the war, the boom continued. Cotton was still King, its price was high, and everyone was making money. Optimisim was everywhere; there would be no more hard times. The taxable property of the County in 1930 was $2,162,193, and the population was 11,500.

But into the "Thirties," the bubble burst. Black Friday signaled the beginning of the Great Depression. The bottom fell out of the stock market, and great fortunes along with small savings were wiped out overnight. Prices of farm produce and lumber crashed. King Cotton declined from fifty cents a pound to five cents. Everyone tightened his belt. Many of the new automobiles were parked because there was no money to buy gasoline. Some farmers put the wheels of their cars on their wagons, since the pneumatic tires rolled and rode easier. They were called Hoover Buggies and a new phrase was coined.

In the United States 18,000,000 people were on relief, with the Federal Government supplying about 80 percent of the cost. Jobs were almost nonexistent, and the pay scale in Warren County dropped to ten cents an hour for skilled workers and five cents for laborers.

In 1933, the Roosevelt Administration introduced reforms, a Banking Holiday was declared and the banks were closed. They were examined and only those which were solvent were allowed to reopen. Two and one-half million young men joined the CCC, the Civilians Conservation Corps. They worked with the National Forest, which is supplying the bulk of the timber needs of the country today. Warren County did not have any Federal Lands for the Corps to work with, but many young men joined and worked in

other areas. The pay was $30.00 per month with food and clothing furnished. The Corpsmen received $5.00 and the other $25.00 was sent directly to his family.

The WPA (Works Projects Administration) did provide much employment, for many of our citizens joined those who completed more than 30,000 Federal Assistance programs. These included roads, bridges, schools, libraries, airports, hospitals, and electrical generating plants. In 1935, Warren County built a grammar school building under this program, and in 1936, a new gymnasium was started only to burn before completion. In 1936, Highway 12 was paved all the way from the Taliaferro line to Augusta. Now one could drive to Augusta in one hour.

Rural Electrification was an outgrowth of the Roosevelt era. Through cooperatives, power plant and lines were constructed to provide electricity to rural areas. Warren County had its first electric power in rural sections in 1939 by this means.

Farm commodity prices were stabilized by the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which provided subsidies to the farmers. Trucks had largely replaced the mule-drawn wagons and the pickup truck became a way of life. Tractors appeared in the fields, replacing the mule-drawn equipment.

In 1938, a new Post Office was built, and one of the first offices to be housed there was the draft board. In 1940 the war in Europe had brought about the recurrence of the draft. New military bases were being built to accommodate these new soldiers, and the demands for additional farm produce and lumber provided jobs for many that were previously employed in the Federal Assistance programs. Many workers left the farms and sawmills to become carpenters, plumbers, electricians and welders, and to acquire other skills working at the military installations.

December 7, 1941 – A day which will live in infamy, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and plunged the United States into total war. Its effect on Warren County as well as the rest of the United States was chaotic. Many men volunteered for service in the armed forces and many others were drafted. Everyone became a part of the war effort. There was a need for everyone able to produce a product or to perform a day's work. There was a job for anyone who could do something. There was no cause for anyone physically able to work to be unemployed.

With the progress of the war and the increasing demand for products, the labor market became more competitive. Hourly wages increased and pay checks became larger and larger. Instead of there not being enough to provide the necessities, there was enough left over for luxuries, and then there was some left over for savings.

Production of everything increased but the increasing demands of the war effort and additional consumer purchasing power brought about a situation in which there was just not enough to go around. Shortages developed and rationing resulted. Gasoline, tires, sugar, and shoes were rationed. Other items were simply just not available.

VJ DAY – the celebration of the winning of a hard fought war – was a time of rejoicing. The fire siren was blown to make those who had not heard the news aware of the war's end. Gasoline, which had been carefully conserved, was burnt out in two hours of driving around in a motorcade. The honking of horns and the shouting of the passengers told everyone that the boys were coming home.

And the boys came home. The legislature had passed an act freezing the

job of a returning veteran. In effect it guaranteed that he could get his old job back regardless of who had been hired to fill it while he was in service.

As it turned out, most veterans did not want their old jobs back. Most wanted something better. Many went to college under the benefits of the GI Bill. Others had developed new skills which entitled them to better paying positions. There were many job opportunities producing the luxury items that had not been available during the war. There was a backlog of orders to catch up. Industry worked around the clock to provide the products that workers had saved up to purchase. Demand continued, greater than supply. The economy was good.

The boys came back . . .,but few returned to the farms. For the first time since its inception, non-agricultural employees exceeded farmers in numbers in the county. Necessarily, the agricultural process changed. One man with proper machinery could produce and harvest more than ten share croppers could. The share-cropping system died "from each end." On the workers side, he wanted a better job. On the other hand,the farmers wanted a better job done. No one mourned the death of the system.

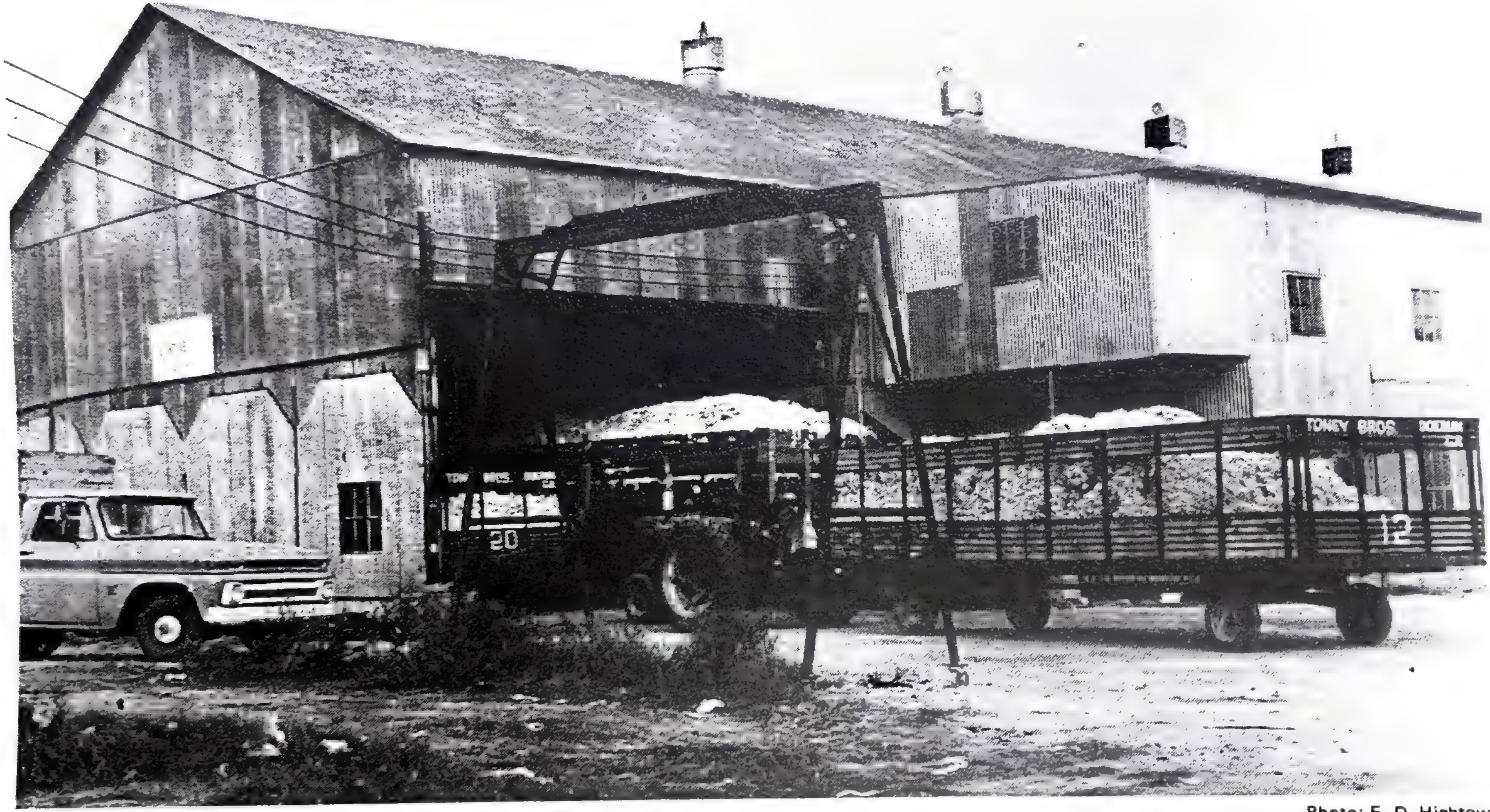
In Warren County the emphasis shifted from agriculture to a balance between agriculture and industry and trade. Industry needed workers. Warren County workers needed jobs. Many residents emigrated, going to the locales where jobs were available.. Many others could not leave and the only solution was to bring jobs where the work force existed. So industry came to Warren County. Many dedicated and far-seeing business people were instrumental in helping bring in jobs.But basically the fact remained, industry came seeking workers.

Along with the advent of industry, there was a greater emphasis placed on education. New schools were built and the quality of education upgraded. As education increased, job capabilities increased. As job capabilities increased, the desire for better living standardsincreased. Individual initiative and Federal Assistance programs offering long term credit vacated the tenant houses of the share croppers. Much substandard housing still exists, but Warren County has moved forward in keeping with the times. We are experiencing progress toward better living conditions, better job opportunities, and an over all better economy.

But the old axiom "For an economy to improve someone must suffer" remains true. In the case of Warren County agriculture has suffered. Agriculture, which had sustained our economy for over two hundred years, is threatened with extinction or curtailment to a minor role. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service carries 450 active farms on its rolls. Yet only about 15% of these farmers are engaged solely in agriculture,as dual occupations are necessary to provide them with normal living standards.

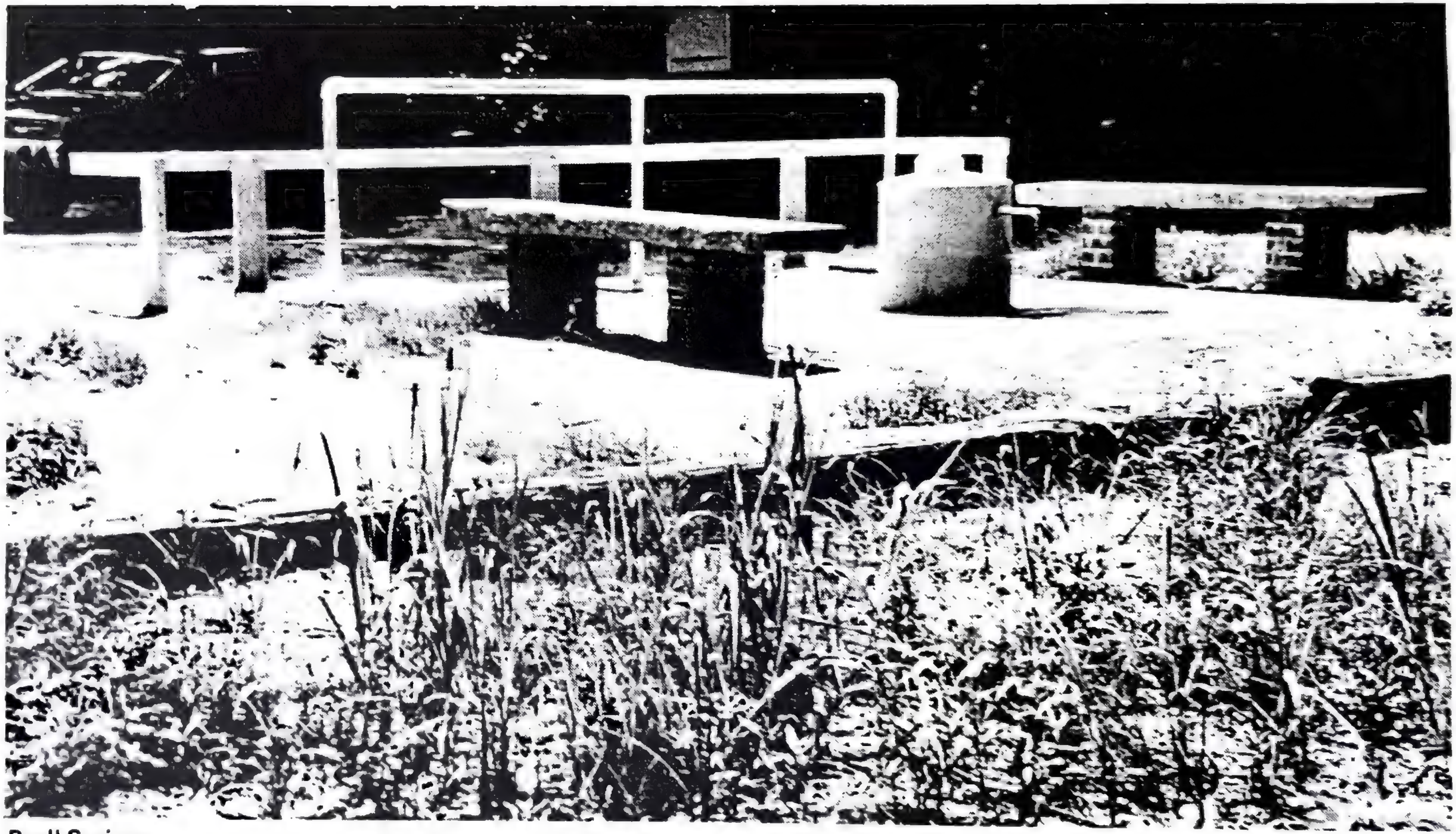
Much of the lands formerly used exclusively for farming are now in timber production. This was brought about by the increased use of paper products. Twenty-five years ago the forestry industry discovered that the only thing that will grow faster than a teen-age boy is a pine tree planted in the section of Warren County north of the Macon Branch of the Georgia Railroad. Subsequently, it has acquired some 30 percent of the land area in Warren County. The industry employs directly or indirectly some 25 percent of the total labor force and contributes a sizeable part of the county's gross income. The taxable property in Warren County in 1974 was $22,750,134.00.

Warren County has gradually achieved a balance between industry, agriculture, and trade. However, we must continue to be vigilant of this delicate balance. Agriculture must be given more emphasis. Industry and trade must also be considered. We must avoid a parallel of the old saying "a family will go from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves in three generations." We cannot allow Warren County to go from forest back to forest in three centuries.



Cotton Gin at Warrenton

Photo: E. D. Hightower



Beall Springs

Photo: C. E. Phelps

CHAPTER 2

Natural Features and Resources

Warren County is located in the eastern central part of Georgia with 181,760 acres. Its natural resources consist of approximately 100,000 acres of good forest lands and 85,000 acres of cultivatable land, an abundant supply of natural streams, deposits of granite rock, sand, and deposits of kaolin. Warrenton, the county seat, is located 47 miles west of Augusta, 76 miles northeast of Macon and 115 miles east of Atlanta.

The county lies within the humid subtropical climatic region. The four seasons are distinct in the area. Spring is usually short with occasional periods of moderate storminess. Summer days are warm and humid with temperatures averaging 80-82 degrees F. Autumns are characterized by long periods of mild, sunny weather. Winters are generally short and mild, thereby allowing outdoor type of work and recreation to continue throughout the year.

Annual precipitation in the area is well distributed throughout the year and averages 43 to 46 inches per year.

The county is served by excellent transportation facilities which include U. S. Highway 278, Georgia Routes 16 and 80, and by the main line of the Georgia Railroad, Interstate 20 extends east and west in the northern portion of the county with three interchange areas located at Norwood, Camak and the northwest corner of the county.

Warren County has historically been an agricultural county. The size of farms has become larger and fewer since 1930.

In 1930, there were 1,560 farms in Warren County with an average size of farms being only 89 acres. Today there are only 256 farms in the county, but the sizes average 343 acres and the value of farm crops produced has reached over three million dollars annually.

There has been a trend of reduced row crops and increased livestock and forestry in Warren County.

In 1930, there were 29,728 acres in cotton and in 1974, there were only 3,267 acres planted in cotton. There were only 2657 cattle and calves reported on farms in 1930, and 9351 reported in 1970.

RIVERS AND CREEKS

The north fork of the Ogeechee River is on the western boundary of Warren County.

Rocky Comfort has two prongs, one rises in Hubert's huckleberry pond and the other on the T. L. Atchison place. They join and flow south and into the Ogeechee River. It is forty miles long.

Golden Creek flows south and several miles below Warrenton it empties into Rocky Comfort.

Long Creek rises on the old Martin place, runs south and into the Ogeechee at Shoals.

Williams Creek rises in the northwestern portion of the county, runs northeast and into Little River.

Hart and Town Creeks in Warren are also tributaries of Little River.

Whetstone rises in the neighborhood of Norwood and flows into Rocky Comfort.

Deep Short and Joe's Creek and other small creeks add to the network of streams that flow through the county.

BEALL SPRINGS

Located nine miles southeast of Warrenton is Beall Springs, at one time a popular summer resort. It took its name from the family in whose possession it remained for more than one hundred years. The waters were found to have curative powers for indigestion, kidney, stomach, and skin diseases.

It was very popular through a number of years and in 1880, Alex Stephens and Bob Toombs were guests of Col. Augustus Beall. At that time the hotel was filled to capacity and small cottages were owned by families who did light housekeeping. Then, the luxuries of water systems, electric lights, etc., had not become necessities, as is the case today; and boarders were willing to live a semi-camp life, enjoy the fine meals that were served, and receive the benefit of the water both internally and externally. A constant flow of water, unaffected by freshets or droughts, gave healing to many suffering patients.

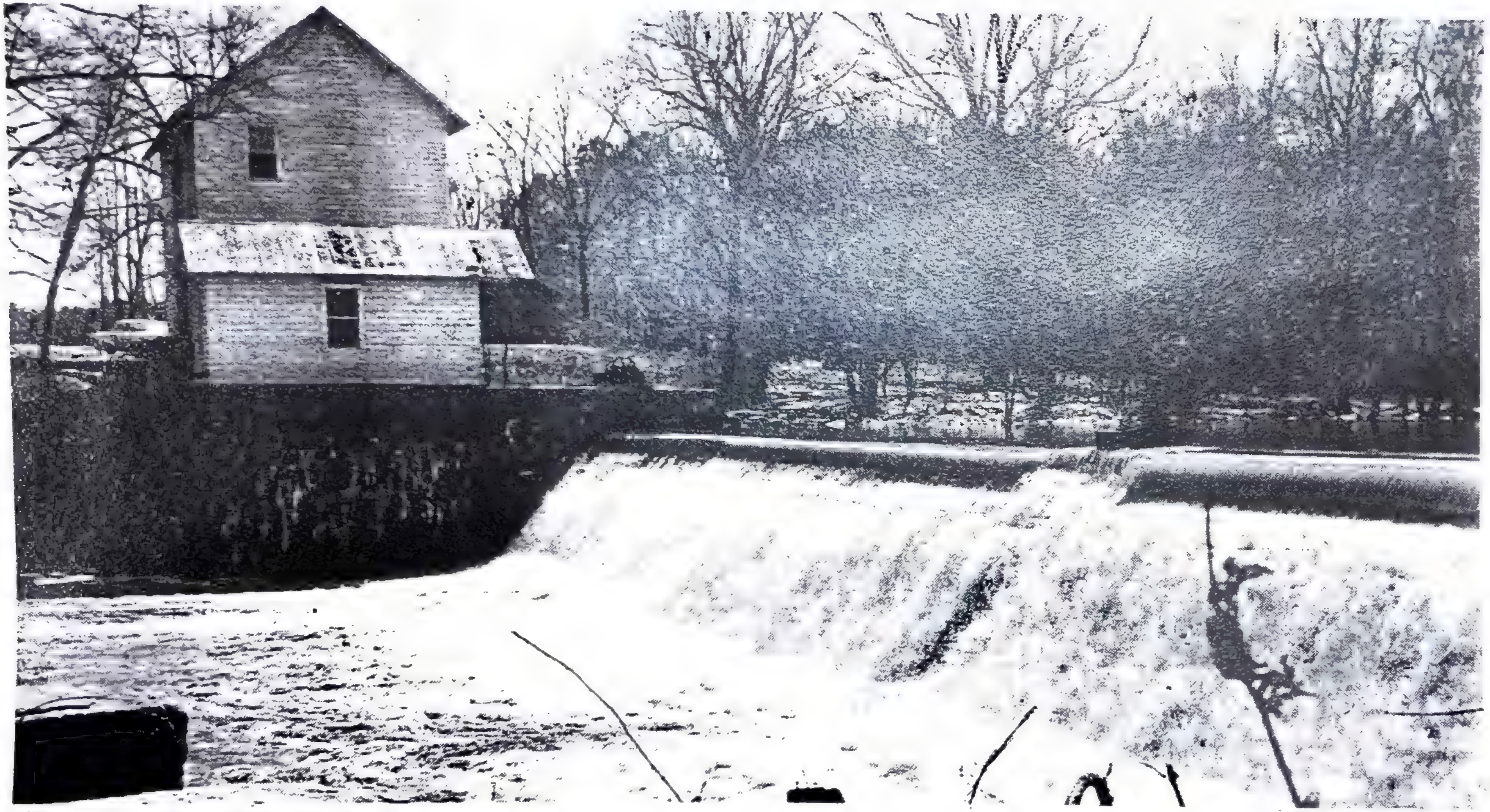
In its natural beauty, unadorned by man, the scenery was picturesque. The hotel occupied a site on the summit of a hill and a terraced walk extended to the spring.

Beall Springs originally belonged to the Indians; but when Gen. Nanam Beall emigrated from Ireland to Maryland and eventually to Georgia, the tract of land was known as government land and was claimed by Gen. Beall. The land was claimed on account of the spring, for in those days wells were considered a luxury.

Nanam Beall was a Revolutionary soldier. He had three sons: Robert, Samuel, and Francis. It was Francis, a carpenter of unusual ability, who in 1797, built the wooden dwelling overlooking the spring.

Francis Beall married Sara Gregory in 1768. They had two sons, Augustus and Elias, and five daughters, Emily, Harriett, Martha, Susan, and Frances. Elias Beall went to Texas in 1830. Augustus, born in Warren County, at Beall Springs, in 1804, married Minerva Massey in 1829. He fought in the Indian War and was there made a Colonel. He died in 1872, the estate going to his wife, Minerva Massey Beall.

A number of years later the home site and spring were bought from the



Mill on Ogeechee River near Mayfield

Photo: E. H. Hightower

Martin-Marietta Quarry, Highway 16

Photo: E. H. Hightower

heirs by Nathan Johnson who used it as a home.

In 1970, the Beall Springs area was restored by the Warrenton Kiwanis Club. (See Kiwanis Club.)

GOLD MINES

In 1884 or 1885, a Mr. Dunlap, Prof. B. M. Hall, and a Mr. McNeil opened a gold mine in the northern part of Warren County and named it "The Warren Mine." Several shafts were sunk twenty feet apart and tunnels connected them. The veins appeared in the walls of the shafts. Enough gold was taken from the first shaft to make a cake of solid gold as large as a saucer and several inches thick. The other shafts were not as rich as the first. This mine was worked for three or four years. Other rich deposits were found on adjoining land owned by Mr. Walker Taylor and Mr. John C. Gallaher. These were also developed. Mr. Gallaher gathered enough gold from time to time to have a ring made for his wife. In 1889 or 1890, Mr. W. S. Lane did some place mining in this gulch and found several pieces of gold, one as large as a dime. He had a scarf pin made of these.

It has been said that if these mines were owned and worked by someone with sufficient capital to install proper machinery and employ expert labor, they would be paying propositions.

SOILS

The soils of Warren County belong to two major soil provinces, the Southern Piedmont and the Southern Coastal Plain. The northern half of the county, with a line extending east and west along the Macon Branch of the Georgia Railroad, seems to divide the soil types from the Piedmont to the Coastal Plains. The Piedmont Soils are underlain by acid chrystalline and metamorphic rock. These soils are primarily of the Cecil, Madison and Lloyd Association. This group of soils occupies gently sloping (6-10%), well-drained areas with rolling topography of moderate erosion. The southern part of the county comprises the Lakeland, Eustis, and Girlead Association. These soils are generally sandy. In the Pan Handle area the Faceville, Magnolia, and Norfork Soils are predominant.

FORESTS

Another resource of Warren County that recycles is our forests. Approximately 100,000 acres of land are devoted to pines and hardwood. The principal species of softwoods are loblolly with some slash pines. Hardwood consists of sweetgum, poplar and oak. In 1930, only about 34,000 acres were devoted to forests. When the share cropping system of farming began to diminish in the mid '40's in Warren County, many tenants moved from the farms, especially in the northern section of the County. There was a tendency for the landowners to sell large portions of land to pulpwood companies. This resulted in considerable acreage being planted in loblolly pines.

A Forest Fire Protection Unit stands by to protect this natural resource. The principal area of our forests is in the northern section of the county; however, a good stand of trees is located on many of the farms in the southern section of the county.

A few farms have ventured into the Christmas tree production enterprise. In the beginning of this endeavor, the Arizona Cypress and Eastern Red Cedar were used as varieties for Christmas trees; however, more recently the Virginia White Pine has become the acceptable variety for a very attractive tree to be used during the Yuletide Season.

KAOLIN

Chalk has been the interest of many citizens in the Pan Handle area for some time before it was purchased commercially. One of these persons was D. S. Hillman. He states that in 1956 he acquired a washed out gully near Fort Creek Church and saw the thick white clay in the bottom. He dug out some with a hoe and sent samples to everyone he thought was interested, including chemical, paint and industrial firms. Mr. Adams, a depot agent for the S & A Railroad at Wrens, assisted him with his endeavors. Eventually representatives from the Anaconda Aluminum Company and Thiele Kaolin Company bought land and leases throughout this section of the county.

This strip of kaolin in many places exceeded 50 feet in depth with 30 to 100 feet of overburden. Kaolin is a white, slightly plastic, nearly pure commercial clay composed of the mineral kaolinite. It is refactory, chemically inert, has a soapy appearance and a smooth, grit free, slightly slippery feel.

Considerable drilling began in the Pan Handle section of the county in 1963, for deposits of kaolin. Rotary drills are used to take a three-inch diameter core. After the initial drilling, closer holes are drilled to get a better cross section of the clay thickness and overburden.

Open pit mining was started on the property of Mr. L. J. Palmer in 1964. The overburden was stripped by graders and bulldozers and the kaolin deposits were dug by draglines.

The independent owners of clay deposits had the choice of leasing or selling their property. When many of the parcels of land were leased, a yearly payment was agreed upon in addition to a royalty on each ton produced.

As Mr. Aaron Rabun, a life long resident of the Pan Handle section of Warren County, jokingly stated, "If there was ever anything of great value in this part of the county, it certainly must be under the ground, for that on the top was of little value." The discovery of this material has brought many changes to Pan Handle. New homes have been constructed. Improvements on the existing homes and buildings have been made and the local churches have received face liftings. The economic structure has been strengthened. However, there have been some damages caused by the deposits of the overburden, the increased use of the road system and the pollution of the streams by excessive soil being washed after heavy rains. The advantages, however, have exceeded the disadvantages, making kaolin one of the most valuable natural resources in Warren County.

GRANITE

In August of 1970, the Weston & Brooker Company merged with the Martin Marietta Corporation. The quarries formerly owned and operated by Weston & Brooker became part of the Southeast Division of Martin Marietta Aggregates. The major divisions of Martin Marietta are Aluminum, Aerospace, Cement, Chemicals and Aggregates.

In early 1974, Martin Marietta opened a quarry operation in Southeast Warren County called Warrenton Quarry. This operation is two miles east on Georgia Highway 16. This operation is similar to the plant formerly owned by Weston & Brooker in northeast Warren County at Cedar Rock. The present capacity of the Warrenton Quarry is about one-half that of the Camak Quarry.

The quarry at Camak has a daily capacity of 10,000 tons or 125 railroad cars. Five to eight tons of dynamite are normally shot in 40-70 holes with only 800-1000 pounds being fired at any interval. The rock is then loaded on large trucks and transported to a large crusher. From here the rocks are separated into different sizes and loaded on trucks or railroad cars. This is done with either an overhead hopper or a larger rubber-tired, front-end loader with a capacity of 10-12 tons for each bucket full.

AMETHYST

In March, 1972, quite a bit of amethyst was located on J. B. Ivey's 286 acre farm. The material was located in a line running northeast to southwest. The vein of rock was first discovered when Paul Marshall, Gilbert Smith and James I. Smith were running parallel terraces. When they discovered the first piece found in the area, Paul Marshall, Soil Conservationist for Little River Soil Conservation District, told Ivey that he believed the piece of rock to be quartz, but at the time none of the men had any inkling of what was ahead.

In fact, Ivey continued to plant the field in wheat and let people come and dig among the plantings. This was stopped in the spring of 1972, when Ivey decided to let the ground become open for excavation. A neighbor of Ivey's, Kenneth Ansley, also found some quartz and amethyst on his property, which borders Ivey, but he decided not to open to the public.

Ivey opened the field to the public for a fee of $2.50 per day. People from as far as New York came to dig for this colorful rock. Amethyst and quartz are always found together, amethyst being a member of the quartz family but having a deep purple color to it. It finds uses in rings, necklaces, tie pins, cufflinks, and other forms of jewelry.

Geologists who have studied this particular area believe that the main vein is some 18 to 30 feet below the surface, a distance which makes commercial locations of veins, while not economically unfeasible, not suited to this particular vein at this time.

CHAPTER 3

Natural Phenomena

PHENOMENA OF NATURE THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN WARREN COUNTY

When the Almighty speaks through nature, and awful elemental castastrophes occur, man stands in awe and terror recognizing his helplessness and impotence against such forces.

Warren County has had her share of these visitations. Beginning in 1804 when the county was only 11 years old, added to the usual hardships and handicaps, came what was known in after years as "The Old Hurricane."

Periodically events of a milder nature have occurred but the following are those that have tried the stoicism of our people.

HURRICANE 1804

In 1804, on April 4th, a hurricane passed through Warren County. It came from a southwesternly direction, doubtless having formed in the Gulf of Mexico. It passed on through Richmond, crossing the Savannah River 15 miles above Augusta. It was very destructive to timber and blew down some houses, but no lives were lost. It was referred to as "The Old Hurricane" and its track could be followed for many years afterwards.

METEORIC SHOWER

A meteoric shower, one of the most beautiful and spectacular phenomena, occurred on November 13th, 1833. The meteors fell through the air like rain. North, east, south and west the stars were falling, and it was indeed an awe inspiring sublime spectacle. A remarkable change took place in the temperature from warm to cold. At the height of display, astronomers said 1,000 meteors a second flashed across the sky. The papers of the day said this meteoric shower was seen in many parts of the United States of America.

DARK SUNDAY

On a Sunday in 1835, there was a total eclipse of the sun. It was totally dark for a short while and chickens went to roost, cows lay down for rest as if it were night, and dew fell on the grass. It was referred to for years as the "Dark Sunday."

COLD SATURDAY

In the same year, 1835, was also a day that was so out of the ordinary that it was referred to for years as the "Cold Saturday." It occurred February 8th.

SNOW IN APRIL

On the night of April 15th, 1847, there was a light snow storm, the snow melting as rapidly as it fell. On the following morning everything was covered with a heavy frost.

HAIL STORM

Hail stones as large as a goose egg did very great damage in Warren County on April 2nd, 1848. Fortunate it was that it came at the beginning of the planting season, or the damage would have been greater. However, signs of it could be seen for years afterwards.

CYCLONE

On Saturday, March 20th, 1875, the most disastrous cyclone that ever visited Georgia passed through Warren and adjacent counties. It was very destructive of both life and property. The following is quoted from the *Augusta Chronicle* of March 31st, 1875.

"It entered Georgia from Lee County, Alabama. The first county it struck was Harris lying immediately east on the Chattahoochee River. After leaving Harris it passed through Talbot, Upson, Monroe, Jones, Baldwin, Hancock, Warren, McDuffie, Columbia and from thence passed into Edgefield county, South Carolina. If the reader will take a rule and lay it upon a map of Georgia selecting any two given points touched by the cyclone, he will see that it traveled in a line as straight as a cannon ball or a crow would fly. The rule will point west through Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, north of New Orleans and run into the Gulf of Mexico between that city and the city of Galveston.

"From Hancock County it crossed the Ogeechee River two and a half miles above the village of Mayfield and entered Warren County. The first plantation it struck in Warren was the Lynah place. Every house upon it was blown down, but no one was hurt. The next plantation struck was that of Mrs. Virginia W. Hubert, the mother of Dr. R. W. Hubert. Here the work of demolition was complete. The Saturday services of Elim church were in progress and from the pastor Rev. J. W. Ellington, who was conducting the services, the following description of the destruction of the church and the awful scenes which occurred inside and around it were obtained and are given in almost exact words.

"The sermon was over and about 60 people were sitting in the congregation. A song was being sung preparatory to taking up the business of the church. A terrible roaring sound was heard and stepping to the window, he saw the black cloud coming. It came in the shape of a barrel and foremost, revolving with terrible velocity and extending from the ground to a height of apparently ½ a mile. The church was at the foot of a gently sloping hill surrounded by a grove of large pine trees. On came the cloud toward the humble little house of God and with the crashing of the trees and the crumbling of a thousand sounds it struck the building. It was raised into the air from its foundation carrying the entire congregation. Then it was hurled against the ground a mass of boards, doors, windows and the people were terror stricken. It was gone in a few seconds and those who were uninjured began immediately the work of extricating those caught under the debris. After the work was finished, it was found that there had been one death, that of Mrs. Lewis Jones, whose neck had been broken, and 20 injured. The cloud was described as being of inky blackness illumined by a lurid light."

The home of Mrs. Virginia Hubert was almost totally destroyed. From a lady who boarded with Mrs. Hubert the following accounts were given:

"I saw the terrible cloud and it became almost dark. I went to the window and from it I saw the approaching storm. Trees were falling before it as if made of paper and I called to my sister who was also rooming on the second floor to run downstairs as a terrific storm was right on us. I ran down the stairway and as I reached the hall on the first floor I knew it had struck the house. I crouched close to the wall and put my face in my hands and closed my eyes as I uttered a prayer. From the creaking and cracking and bursting sounds, I knew it was playing havoc with the house. In an instant it was over and I raised my head and looked up the stairway. I was astonished to find myself looking at the sky. The entire top of the house was gone. I climbed the steps to find the second floor, that had contained four large, well-furnished rooms and a large hall, swept clean. Not a side wall, partition or a vestige of furniture was left. It was as if the floor of the second story had been intended for a flat roof of the first. Amazed at this barrenness, where once had been comfortable living quarters, I hastened below to find the damage there. The rain was pouring down, but I seemed unconscious of getting wet. The lower floor was covered with all kinds of debris, plastering, laths, bricks, etc., and water was standing on the floor.

The front door which had been locked had burst loose and blown through the back door. With both doors and the entire roof gone we were indeed at the mercy of the elements. As soon as the rain was over, the people from Elim Church, which had also been razed by the storm, came to prepare the house for a morgue in which to place the dead and the injured. Holes were bored in the floor to let the water through and hoes were used to dray out the debris. Then Mrs. Lewis Jones who had been struck on the head by a piece of flying timber and whose face was already turning purple from an accumulation of bruised blood was placed on the dining table. On a sofa was placed the body of Hannah, the negro cook, who had been blown to the trunk of a tree and then whipped in the wind like a piece of ribbon until she was broken to pieces. Hannah's two grandchildren were placed on tables, the girl with a broken thigh and the boy with blood flowing from two gaping wounds in his head. The memory of these scenes will follow me to my dying day."

Mr. P. F. Smith, now of Atlanta, Ga., but then a clerk in the mercantile establishment of Allen and Farmer at Warrenton told the following:

"That memorable Saturday was very hot and hazy. Between twelve and one o'clock, the wind commenced blowing rather hard, it began to turn dark and everybody felt rather queer and nervous. I recall, like only yesterday, seeing Mr. R. A. Hill, familiarly known as "Uncle Bob Hill," (he lived on the highway from Warrenton to Norwood, his elegant old home is still well preserved). Mr. Hill came from the courthouse door, where he had been standing observing the peculiar clouds. He saw small pines tops and pine trees limbs coming down from these clouds and falling in the middle of the street in front of the courthouse. He gathered up an armful of these and brought them to the front of Allen & Farmer's Store. Mr. Hill was shaking with excitement and nervously remarked to several citizens standing on the sidewalk, 'Gentlemen,you are going to hear from this. There is a mighty bad storm going on somewhere now, for the wind has blown these pine limbs from out in the country somewhere and dropped them in the middle of the street.'

"Everything seemed still and mysterious for an hour or more. In an hour, or so a messenger rode on horseback and told the waiting, excited people on the sidewalks the news that a cyclone had blown down the famous old Elim Baptist Church, killing several and wounding many of the worshippers."

It was related that the wind blew a feather bed from an Elim Community home clear across the country, dropping it in a tree top in Columbia County.

The path of the cyclone was from the southwest and was several hundred yards wide and was blowing and traveling northeast of Warrenton, lifting itself high up in the air, then swooped down with full force on the town of Camak, destroying several homes, blowing down the large wooden Camak hotel, destroying it completely.

One of the most remarkable features of this cyclone was the freak and peculiar happenings. For instance, it is a positive fact that a large shingle was actually blown through a large telegraph pole and remained in this position, viewed by scores of people for several months. It was such a remarkable freak, such a curiosity, shouting the power and force of the cyclone, that a United States official of the Science Department of the government was later sent down to Camak, getting permission to take this pole. This official cut out a section of some two or three feet, containing the shingle intact, and carried it to Washington, D. C., where it was placed in the National Museum.

CYCLONE AT CAMAK

The fury of the storm had not abated at all when it struck Camak. The little railway station at the intersection of the Georgia Railroad was left a complete wreck. Every building, except one store, was blown down and it is marvelous how the people escaped. Only one casualty occurred, that of Mr. Thomas Gheesling. Mr. Gheesling was the depot agent at Camak. While at dinner he heard a terrible roaring, and thinking the sound came from an approaching train, he left his dinner and ran to the station. As he was passing a freight car heavily loaded with fertilizer, the giant strength of the cyclone turned this car over on its side, crushing out the life of this fine, popular, Christian gentleman. This was the only person killed, but several were injured and crippled, and there was a considerable destruction of property in and around Camak.

Following the track of the storm it was found that the houses on the plantation of Messrs. Ivey and Brown were destroyed, but no one was seriously injured.

It seemed to have about spent its force and fury rising again just below Camak, doing some damage in McDuffie and Columbia Counties, passing on towards South Carolina and the Atlantic Ocean.

A few days later there appeared in the column of the Augusta Constitutionalist, now known as the Augusta Chronicle, the following article written by Mr. J R. Hill, who was also in the church at Elim at the time of the cyclone and whose wife and two children were in the home of Mrs. Virginia Hubert.

"Elim Church stood six miles nearly west of Warrenton, Ga. Although it had been a place of worship for nearly half a century the house had undergone such repairs, that for a country church it equalled in style and beauty any building of the kind outside of any town or city in the state, and would accommodate an audience composed of 500 persons. It was surrounded by an extensive grove of majestic oak and hickory, interspersed with pine; and within 300 yards, on an eminence, from which a fine view of the surrounding country could be taken, stood the elegant residence of Mrs. Virginia Hubert, a septuagenarian, who has been noted for hospitality to friend and stranger, and those excellent qualities which are characteristic of her sex. Her front yard, with its shrubbery and flowers, struck the eye of the beholder with delight, while its shade trees on the side and in the background completed the beauty of the scene.

"The church is a total wreck; the grove has been demolished; the fine mansion, with its contents and surroundings, has been nearly torn to pieces; about a dozen out-houses blown entirely down and partially away; fences laid flat, and myriads of the fragments have been scattered for miles.

"About noon on the 20th, instant, an irresistible tornado was seen approaching from the southwest, bearing down everything before it, with a width of about 800 yards and presenting an oval appearance of white and murky clouds, alternately rolling upon the earth – the whole moving steadily forward in a whirl, the centre presenting the most formidable front. The writer stood in the front door of the church watching the movements of the tempest, and listening to its rumbling earthquake sound, until about twenty minutes past twelve, when almost simultaneously it plowed its way through the grove and church with apparently as much ease as if they had been composed of straw, yet allowing the main portion of the church with its thousand timbers, to be heaped in every conceivable shape upon the benches and the floor.

"The tornado was but a natural sequence of disordered elements. The killing of but one person, the seriously wounding of but few, and the narrow escape from death of so many who were in the crash, falls but little short of a miracle.

"One who has witnessed and experienced, to some extent, the pestilence that walketh in darkness, the destruction that wasteth at noon-day, can truly assert, that for sublimity, destructive grandeur, and the manifestation of the power of the Almighty, contrasted with the insignificance of man and his efforts, that occasion defies a parallel; and presented a sight, and made impressions upon the mind which can never be either wholly recalled or entirely forgotten. Something akin to it, brings up an involuntary shudder, to which the recollection of a hideous nightmare might possibly be

compared.

"The following named persons were in the church when it fell: the killed, wounded and uninjured being designated. Killed Mrs. Lewis Jones; wounded Mrs. J. Pilcher, Miss Pilcher (slight) Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. V. Hubert (slight); Mrs. Green Collier Barksdale, S. Turner, Doc. Atchison, Rev. Mr. Ellington (slight); Wm. Anderson, Wm. Shirby, Starling Ivey, Joe Dozier; Uninjured, Lewis Jones and infant, Mrs. Humphries, Robert Wicker, Stokes Ivey, Mrs. Butts and child, Thos. Atchison, W. E. Holmes, Mrs. Doc. Atchison, Miss Betti Barksdale, Miss Joanna Barksdale, Miss Allen, Dr. J. Pilcher, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Mary Atchison, Robert Barksdale, Reddick Nelson, J. R. Hill and perhaps others.

"At Mrs. Hubert's place were the following killed: Hannah (blown 400 yards and horribly mangled); wounded, three colored children blown about 200 yards and severely crushed; uninjured, Mrs. Hill and two children, Mrs. Ben Lester and child, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Pemble, Miss N. Hubert, Thos. Pamble and several colored people.

"Large timbers 18 x 12, 18 feet long, were hurled through the air 400 yards. One scantling was stuck four inches deep into the body of a live poplar, a plank sent whizzing through the strong facing on the house, and large timbers stuck into stiff clay soil five feet deep. Rabbits were found dead in the woods and fowls were entirely denuded of their feathers, except on their wings. One might as well undertake to replace the numberless fragments, and reinstate in its original the repulsive wreck which is spread out before me, as to attempt a minute description of the tornado and its consequences.

"It may not be improper to add that the adjoining premises of Mr. J. H. Hubert were similarly dealt with, and, strange to say, his family escaped unhurt. His house was unroofed, fences laid flat, fields covered with fallen timber and outhouses destroyed. He is one of the most industrious and successful farmers in the country.

"Mr. Lewis Jones, the husband of the lady killed, truly deserves public sympathy. With him, accidental misfortunes seem to have "tread upon each other's heels." Several years ago his lovely and only daughter met her death by the accidental discharge of a fire-arm. One of his plantations was swept by the tornado and his fireside has been made desolate by the decease of a wife, whose Christian department was unexceptionable, and who feared not to die in the sanctuary, and in the discharge of her religious duty.

"Elim church and the school house should be rebuilt. Every person within the range of this dreadful hurricane deserves sympathy and assistance, and it does seem that the bare mention of the prominent features of the destruction and danger which they have passed through would be a sufficient appeal to a generous public who were spared this dreadful ordeal. If any such there be who are willing to contribute either in money or necessaries, they can address the same to our worthy Ordinary, Rev. R. W. Hubert, at Warrenton, with the directions as to how it shall be applied."

J. R. H.

In the March 24, 1875, issue of the *Constitutionalist* there was an article written by Mr. Henry P. Arlington which, while it is not from Warren County, is from Glascock, an adjoining county, but it tells in a graphic manner, the continued ravages of this awful elemental cataclysm.

EARTHQUAKE

Fletcher McDonlad operated the Old Mill on the Dyer place a short distance from Fountain Camp Ground. He had a son named Joseph who says he has often, as a boy, placed his foot over a two inch hole on the bridge over Little River that furnished power to run the mill. This hole was bored in the center of the bridge to hold the compass when a survey was made in 1879, taking a part of Warren County to form McDuffie County. It was the point where Warren, Wilkes and McDuffie met. He also said that in 1879, he attended the school that was housed in the old log tent that was used as the preachers tent at Fountain Camp Ground and was then taught by Professor A. P. Ware.

He attended 16 consecutive Camp meetings there.

It was during one of these meetings that the Earthquake of 1886 occurred and Joseph McDonald says that the first shock came at ten o'clock at night on August 31st, while the preaching services were in progress. It shook the pavilion so vigorously and frightened the congregation to such an extent that many came forward to join the church.

They had never seen such a phenomenon and it seemed a warning from the Almightly.

About nine o'clock on the night of August 31st, 1886, the inhabitants or Warren County were very much alarmed by a rumbling noise followed by the rocking of houses, ringing of church bells, rattling of crockery and toppling of chimneys. A thrill of horror was felt by the natives when shock after shock came on until 14 distinct shocks were felt before sunrise the next morning. This was the most severe earthquake ever felt in Warren County or even in Georgia. Many houses were so seriously, damaged that they were not safe until repairs were made.

Mr. P. F. Smith giving recollections of this catastrophe, also says:

"It was a very hot night and the moon was shining brightly and beautifully.

Back in those days the holiness people held a holiness meeting each Monday night of every week. This meeting on the night of the earthquake, was held in the home of Hon. Tillman N. Poole, located on the turn of the road going from Gibson Street, not far from the home of Mr. Elijah Conner, (the lot now owned by Mrs. Vando Johnson.) A fine congregation of men, women and young people crowded into the parlor for this inspiring service. The writer sat with Brother Pool in the hall of the house, near the doorway, where we could see, hear and enjoy the service.

Mr. H. H. Fitzpatrick conducted the service and was offering the opening prayer when the house began to tremble and shake. There was a loud, heavy noise, sounding like a freight train was actually traveling from the direction of Mr. Conner's home on across the road and seemed to be running right towards Brother Pool's house. It certainly was a scary time; men and women sprang to their feet. One young lady gave a scream and naturally, Mr. Fitzpatrick, abruptly, closed his prayer. Then after several minutes, the people calmed down and resumed their seats, order being restored. A brother, by the name of McDaniel, who had recently moved from around Mitchell to Warrenton arose and said, "I move that Brother Fitzpatrick continue his prayer." This he kindly consented to do, but hardly got started again when there was another alarming shock, which seemed to be mostly confined to the roof of the house. The shingles rattled, the roof shook and there was great excitement. Dr. W. J. Walker, a fine Christian gentleman, ran

out doors, remaining outside, maybe, for ten minutes, while the excited people were standing in groups in the house. Then he came back in the house, provoking a laugh. He gave as his reason for running out doors "that he thought somebody was on the roof of the house and he went out to see who it could be." The meeting broke up in confusion, the folks all rushing to their various homes. From this time on, through midnight, even the next day, there were frequent earth tremors.

The several severe earthquake shocks occurring the night of August 31st, 1886, also broke up a protracted meeting going on at Macedonia church, near Mesena, Warren County.

Some of the members of Macedonia church describing the effects of these shocks stated they caused a great scare, much confusion and were just about to break up the meeting, when a well known citizen – a sort of lay preacher and church exhorter, who had been sitting during the service in the church pulpit, jumped to his feet and with great fervor and zeal exhorted the few brethren remaining. Many of the brethren took to their heels, running to the large church grounds during the first shock. While the eloquent brother was exhorting his brethern and sisters to get quiet, be seated and just have faith, that no harm would befall them, another terrible shock came, much much more violent than the first one, whereupon, the exhorter got badly frightened, his faith failed him, he made for the window in the rear of the pulpit, jumped out, and in his haste he carried the large glass sash with him as he made a quick, successful run to the woods.

SNOWSTORM 1914

The Warrenton Clipper, February 25th, 1914, states that about eight inches of snow fell here Wednesday, said to be a record for snow in Warrenton. No "old inhabitant" remembered a bigger one. "From 7 o'clock in the morning until 9 at night the flakes fell steadily."

Thursday, February 9th, 1967, four inches of snow were officially recorded. "Flakes began falling in Warren County in Warrenton about 11 a.m., and within a very brief period of time, the flurry became intense and covered the area with a white blanket of very soft and sparkling flakes.

The heavy snowfall continued in the area until about 5:30 p.m. and in some places, the depth measured five inches. The Warrenton weather official recorded 4.33 inches. After a night of low temperatures, the melting process began Friday morning and by late afternoon, most of the white blanket had disappeared."

The Clipper on Friday, March 1st, 1968, featured two full pages of snow scenes in Warrenton, but no record of the amount of snow.

COLD WEATHER 1950

On Friday, November 24, 1950, a sudden temperature drop occurred in the area with Warrenton registering a chilly nine degrees Farenheit.

HEAVY RAINS 1971

The records show the Warrenton area received a total of 6.31 inches of rain from about 8:30 Monday night, March 1st, until noon Wednesday, March 3rd, 1971.

TORNADO 1973

Heavy winds believed to be a tornado touched down in Warren County Friday, Feb. 2, 1973. Hardest hit was an area east of Norwood on Highway 278 where trees were uprooted and blown on the highway causing traffic interruption until the debris could be cleared by Highway Department workmen. The wind also caused some damage on the Norwood-Camak Road.

BIG SNOW STORM 1973

A crippling snow storm swept into this area around noon Friday, Feb. 9, 1974, halting traffic and closing schools and businesses. All local church services were suspended Sunday, Feb. 11.

The 14-inch record snow storm continued from 11 a.m. Friday until late afternoon Saturday. This snow coverage topped the 8-inch record of 1914.

Dozens of motorists were stranded in Warrenton with all available motel and tourist accommodations occupied. Thanks to local restaurants, relief was provided truckers and motorists halted during their travels at this point. At times the local restaurant was crowded to capacity from those seeking shelter from the crippling weather conditions.

Hazardous driving conditions existed throughout the area until late Sunday morning, but a record low of 12 degrees Sunday night halted traffic again in the area. Only highways and roads on which snow was removed by motor graders were considered safe for travel.

The weekend proved to be a continuation of record breakers . . . first the record breaking snow storm of 14 inches, topped by a new low of 12 degrees on Sunday morning. Monday morning's low was a chilling 15 degrees. Tuesday morning's low was 18. These readings and the snowfall were recorded by H. C. Wheeler, Jr., U. S. Weatherman for this area.

The Warrenton Clipper, Feb. 16, 1973, carried a special edition of the "Great Snowstorm."

LOWEST TEMPERATURE AND HIGHEST TEMPERATURE (WARRENTON)

1921 - 1974 Temperature: Degrees Fahrenheit

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	ANNUAL
3	-2	14	28	36	44	55	53	36	24	9	6	-2 (lowest)
82	83	91	98	101	104	108	107	108	99	90	80	108 (highest)

ANNUAL AVERAGE OF SNOWFALL – WARRENTON (1921-1960)

1.4 inches

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	ANNUAL
.2	.8	.1	T*	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	T*	.1	.2	1.4 (total)

*Trace

Source of Material – Climatic Information Handbook
United States Weather Bureau
United States Department of Commerce

Record Total Snowfall in Warren County (Feb. 9-10, 1973) .... 14 inches

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NORMALS BY CLIMATOLOGICAL DIVISIONS
Years: 1931 - 1960

TEMPERATURE — Degrees Fahrenheit

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	ANNUAL
47.8	49.4	55.0	63.6	71.7	78.7	80.4	79.6	74.7	64.6	54.2	47.7	64.0

PRECIPITATION — Inches

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	ANNUAL
4.06	4.38	4.77	4.13	3.19	3.29	4.41	4.02	3.55	2.67	2.58	3.99	45.04 (total)

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION — Inches

1895 — 56.79
1896 — 48.84
1897 — 42.56
1898 — 40.34
1899 — 45.82
1900 — 46.54
1901 — 50.34
1902 — 37.75
1903 — 44.06
1904 — 32.98
1905 — 44.27
1906 — 47.29
1907 — 48.12
1908 — 46.66
1909 — 39.56
1910 — 38.67
1911 — 51.75
1912 — 66.56
1913 — 45.06
1914 — 41.02
1915 — 51.66
1916 — 40.31
1917 — 43.77
1918 — 46.77
1919 — 47.75
1920 — 59.98
1921 — 40.82
1922 — 54.85
1923 — 55.38
1924 — 52.77
1925 — 37.55
1926 — 43.70
1927 — 39.39
1928 — 58.23
1929 — 79.31
1930 — 42.03
1941 — 40.13
1942 — 45.17
1943 — 40.08
1944 — 47.24
1945 — 40.85
1946 — 38.41
1947 — 56.22
1948 — 67.08
1949 — 41.65
1950 — 35.41
1951 — 36.17
1952 — 42.37
1953 — 55.38
1954 — 28.89
1955 — 40.21
1956 — 44.13
1957 — 56.84
1958 — 43.27
1959 — 57.03
1960 — 47.55
1961 — 57.31
1962 — 52.52
1963 — 50.82
1964 — 70.37
1965 — 44.65
1966 — 46.93
1967 — 45.68
1968 — 39.44
1969 — 45.23
1970 — 41.64
1971 — 61.54
1972 — 47.64
1973 — 45.59
1974 — 51.95

Annual Average Precipitation (1895-1974) .... 47.41 inches
Most Rainfall in One Year (1929) .... 79.31 inches
Least Rainfall in One Year (1954) .... 28.89 inches

GEORGIA – FEBRUARY 1973

SPECIAL WEATHER SUMMARY

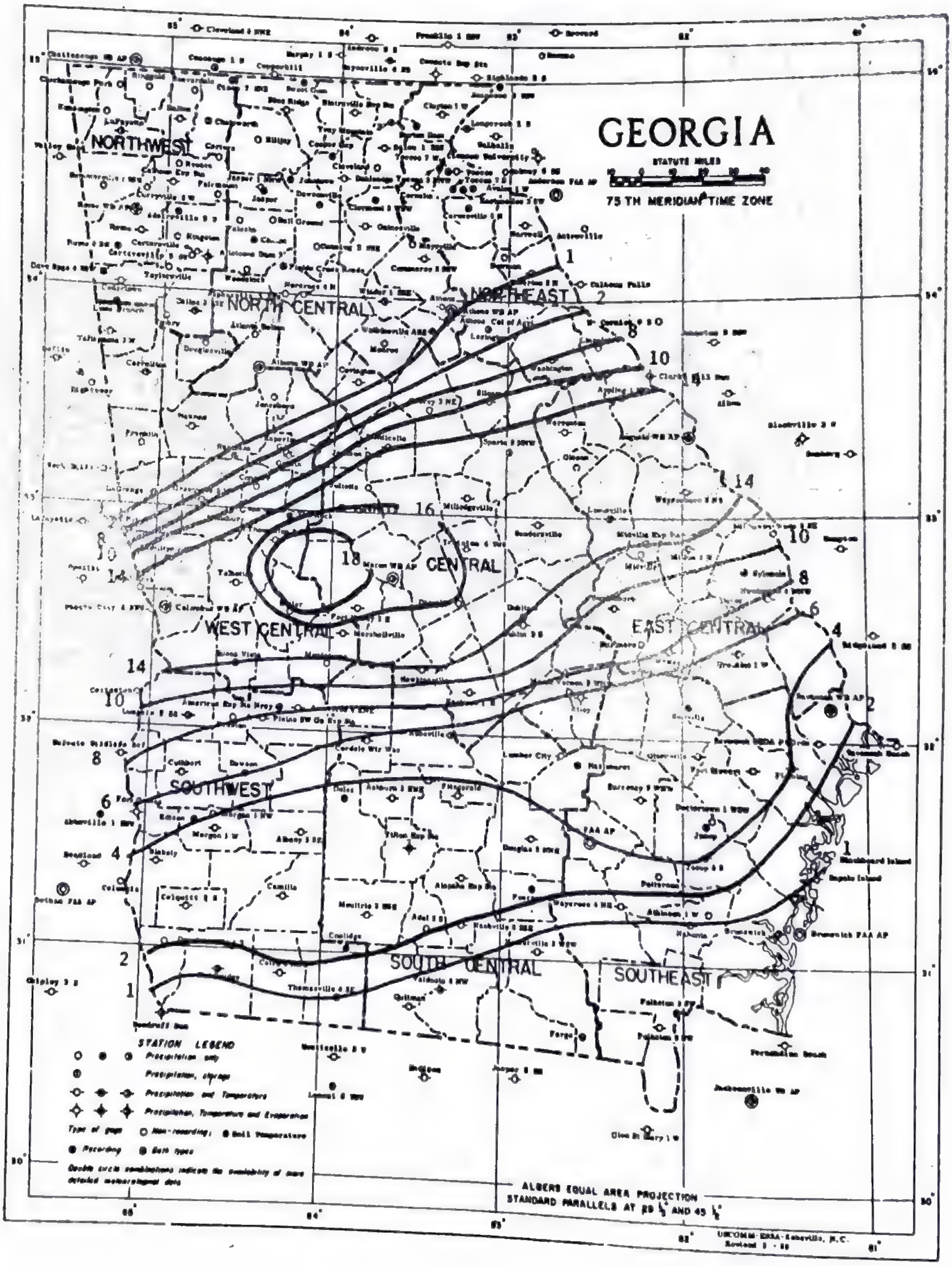
The February snowfall was the greatest experienced in middle Georgia during the 80 to 100 years that weather records are available. Most previous records, set in February 1914, were topped by four to nine inches. Depths reached 18 inches in parts of two or three west-central counties and falls of 14 inches or more were reported over a 40 to 70 mile-wide belt across the middle of the State, centered roughly from Columbus to Macon to Augusta. Amounts decreased sharply north of this area and more gradually to the south. (See accompanying map.)

The storm began as sleet and freezing rain in west-central sections during the early morning hours of the 9th, but soon changed to snow and spread rapidly across the State, reaching the eastern border before noon. The snow continued through the afternoon and night of the 9th. It ended in the west early on the 10th, but continued in the east and southeast through most of the day. Damage was extensive in the area of heaviest snowfall as hundreds of chicken houses, carports, sheds, and awnings collapsed under the added weight. Several industrial plants and business buildings suffered roof and equipment damage.

All major highways, county roads, and city streets were either closed or became extremely hazardous in the area of heaviest snowfall, and traffic was almost completely halted. Hundreds of stranded motorists were assisted or rescued by the State Patrol, Civil Defense, or National Guard Units. Emergency housing and food were provided in many of the hardest hit communites. Schools closed early on the 9th and many remained closed on the 12th because of hazardous road conditions.

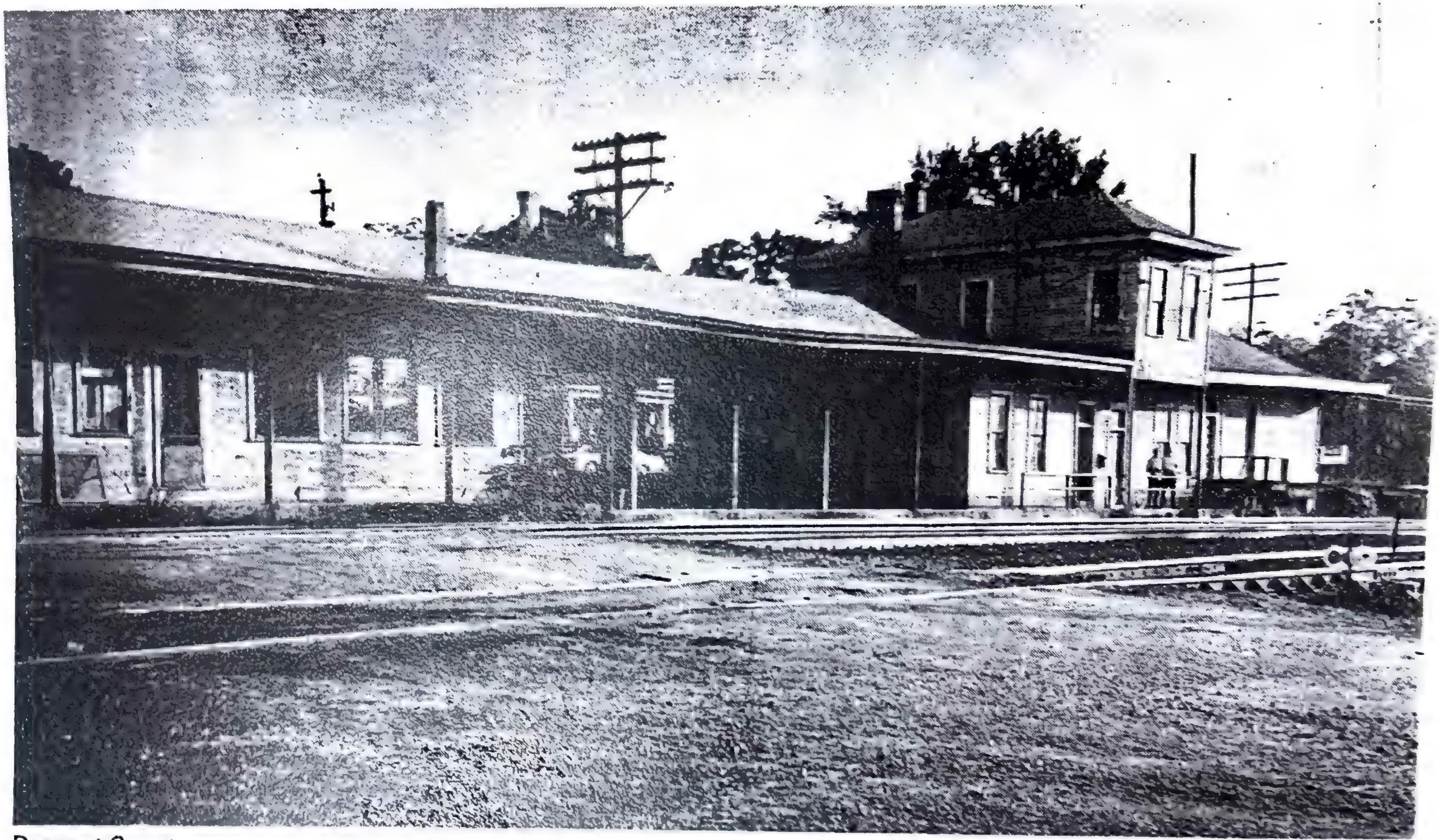
Source of information: National Weather Service Office
Agricultural Engineering Center
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

SNOWFALL (inches) FEBRUARY 9-10, 1973



"Big Snow" February, 1973

Photo: E. H. Hightower



Depot at Camak

Photo: E. H. Hightower

CHAPTER 4

Early Settlers

Among the families living in the territory in 1790, before Warren County was created who became her first citizens were those of Dan Atkins, Sol. Newsome, David Neal, William Johnston, Job Hunter, Cullen Battle, Robert Abercrombie, Henry Peoples, William Hill, A. Denton, William Cason, I. Burnley, B. Epton, E. Perryman, E. Connor, A. Brinkley, William Jenkins, A. Jones, M. English, C. Lowe, Sr., D. A. Simpson, Thomas Maddox, Ephriam Ivey, John Burkhalter, E. Wilson, Tom Persons, Tom Lockett, Sam Bell, Jonas Shivers, Peter and John Newsome, Elisha Hunt, Benjamin Harris, Sam Beall, John Williams, Richard Dozier, Johnathan Baker, William Denmark, J. W. Jenkins, C. Sturdivant, John Wilson, Capt. Hill, and Robert Augustus Beall. In an old document dated December 13, 1793, containing the names of the commissioned officers in the Militia Regiment, a supplementary list of the early settlers is found; Samuel Alexander, Lieut. Col.; John Lawson and Solomon Slatter, Majors.; David Neal, Absolom Cobbs, James Wilson, Chapman Abercrombie, Jesse Burnley, Nicholas Jones, William Smith, William Hill, and Abner Llewellyn, Captains,; William Landrum and Gibson Flournoy, Lieutenants.

ISRAEL BURNLEY

Israel Burnley, a cabinet maker and mill-wright, emigrated from England to America early in the eighteenth century. He came to Georgia soon after the close of the Revolutionary War from Bedford, Virginia. He settled on the Ogeechee River, near the Hancock County line – then Wilkes County – and built the first mill on that river. He was married in Virginia to Hannah Terrell. They reared two children. They are buried in unmarked graves near the home of Mrs. Fannie Barksdale.

HARRY BURNLEY

Harry Burnley, son of Israel and Hannah (Terrell) Burnley, was born in Bedford County, Virginia about 1755 or 56. He married in 1782 in Virginia, a Mrs. Lucy (Barksdale) Davenport, daughter of Collier Barksdale of

Charlotte County, Virginia, whose first husband, John Davenport, was killed in the War of the Revolution. Harry Burnley was a soldier of the Revolution also. He enlisted in March, 1776, from Bedford County. He was commissioned Ensign of a company of volunteers October 28, 1782, and was commissioned Lieutenant in the militia of Campbell County, Virginia. He came to Georgia about 1789 and settled in Hancock County on the Ogeechee River but after one or two years came to what later became Warren County and settled on the "Phelps Place." Some years before his death he moved to Columbia County where he passed away in January of 1835 at the ripe age of 78. He lies buried on the Phelps Place.

JOHN BARKSDALE

John Barksdale, son of Collier Barksdale, of Charlotte County, Virginia, married Susan Burnley, a daughter of Israel and Hannah Burnley. He moved to Georgia about 1789 and settled in Warren County on the Ogeechee River. He and his wife both died in 1803, leaving a large family of sons and daughters, all of whom left Warren County except Samuel. Col. R. T. Barksdale of Augusta was a grandson of Samuel Barksdale.

JACK DAVENPORT

Jack Davenport was from Virginia. He married Mrs. Malcolm Johnston, a daughter of Israel and Hannah Burnley. He was a school teacher, a writer of deeds, etc. He represented Warren County in the legislature.

JAMES ROGERS

James Rogers, a Revolutionary soldier, was born in 1760 and died August 13, 1840. He came from Raleigh, North Carolina. Before her marriage, his wife was a Miss Oliver.

HENRY POOL

Henry Pool was born in England in 1759. He married an English woman named Susan Ratchett. They evidently sailed for America soon after marriage, for their first child was born in this country. It is not known from what state he came to Georgia, but he was among the early pioneers who came to Warren County. After the death of Susan Ratchett, he married Mary Hutchinson and after her death he married her sister Eleanor Hutchinson. Having married three times, he had a large family of sons and daughters.

He was a Revolutionary soldier and was present at many battles including Yorktown, where he witnessed the surrender of Lord Cornwallis to General Washington.

When the war ended, Henry Pool returned to Georgia and settled in Warren County with his wife and ten children. A son preceded the father to the grave, and following the death of Henry Pool, seven other children died at short intervals until only the mother and two daughters, Sara and Mary, were left.

In 1865, Mary, at the age of 15, became the bride of Arch Newsome, a young soldier in the Confederate Army, who owned a small farm five miles

from the Pool homestead, in what is now Glascock County. Shortly after Mary's wedding, the Pool home burned, and Sarah and the aged mother took up residence in a cabin near Mary's home. After the death of the mother, Sarah, who had not married, moved in with her sister and brother-in-law. After the death of Mary's husband, the aged sisters, known to their friends as Aunt Sarah and Aunt Mary, lived alone on the two-acre farm near Gibson.

When Dr. H. Y. Yarborough, a prominent Milledgeville physician, discovered that Aunt Sarah and Aunt Mary were the daughters of a man who saw service under General George Washington, the Nancy Hart Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, of which Mrs. Yarbrough was Regent, took them in charge and submitted their case to the National Department DAR. That body presented them with certificates attesting to their status as "real daughters" of the Revolution and voted an allowance of $25.00 a month to each of them.

MARY ROGERS

Mary Rogers, born October 18, 1772, was the third born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James.

CLARY ROGERS

Clary Rogers was the fourth born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James. The date of her birth was August 11, 1774.

NANCY ROGERS

Nancy Rogers, the fifth born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James, was born March 3, 1776. She married Mr. Saxon, who died at sea. They had the following children: Wiley Saxon, Temperance J. Saxon, Elizabeth Davis Saxon, Nancy Wilkinson Saxon, and Louisa Saxon.

One of the daughters, Temperance Saxon, was the second wife of Elias Wilson. Their children were John, James, Amanda, and Alethia.

Nancy Wilkinson Saxon married William Swain and they had the following children: Wiley W., Thomas H., John R., R. S., James P., R. J., Susan, Elizabeth, Temperance, and Margaret.

PHOEBE ROGERS

Phoebe Rogers was the sixth born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James, and the date of her birth was January 15, 1778. She married Frederick Brown and they had no children.

TEMPERANCE ROGERS

Temperance Rogers was the seventh born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James. She was born at the old Rogers' Homestead on Williams Creek, in Warren County, on October 21, 1780. She was the second wife of Thomas Lockett, and they reared four sons – Thomas, Cullen, Reuben, and Solomon – and three daughters – Choloe, Betsy, and Rebecca.

REUBEN ROGERS, JR.

The eighth born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James, Reuben Rogers, Jr. was born September 10, 1782. He was married to Elizabeth Emerson, who after the death of Reuben, married Elias Wilson, the widower of Temperance Saxon. The children of Reuben Rogers, Jr. and Elizabeth Emerson were Elizabeth Cook Rogers and Mary Benson Rogers.

JOSEPH ROGERS

Joseph Rogers was the ninth born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James, and the date of his birth was February 9, 1784. He was married to Frances Gardner and they had the following children: Thomas Lawrence, Gustavus, Reuben, Sterling, and Elizabeth.

REBECCA ROGERS

Rebecca Rogers was the tenth child of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James. She was born January 2, 1786 and was married to Michael Cody on January 18, 1818. They lived at the old Cody homestead five and one half miles east of Warrenton, but after the death of her husband, for the sake of better school advantages for her children, she bought a place three miles nearer Warrenton on the same thoroughfare. She died at this place on December 5, 1851.

Rebecca and Michael Cody had four children: Marion Michael, Louisa Amanda, Jeptha M., and Madison Detrell.

ABNER ROGERS

Abner Rogers, the eleventh born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James, was born on October 19, 1788. There is no account of his marriage. He was once Sheriff of Warren County.

CULLEN ROGERS

Cullen Rogers, the twelfth born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James, was born May 7, 1790. He married his cousin, Jane Womack, who was the daughter of Sherwood Womack and Nancy Rogers. They moved to Lagrange, Ga. or near there.

ASENATH ROGERS

Asenath Rogers, born November 11, 1792, was the thirteenth born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James.

SARAH ROGERS

Sarah Rogers, born October 15, 1794, was the fourteenth born of Reuben Rogers and Temperance James. She married Josiah Swain and moved to Marion County, Georgia. They died there, and their descendants moved to Texas.

THADDEUS BEALL

Thaddeus Beall was born in Frederick County, Maryland, in 1731. A Revolutionary soldier, he was among the officers mentioned in McSherry's "History of Maryland."

Thaddeus Beall was married in 1767 to Amelia Jane --, and they had ten children: Frederick, Elias, Josiah, Thaddeus Jr., Samuel, Jeremiah, Walter, Amelia, Anna, and Maza.

BURKHALTER FAMILY OF GEORGIA PIONEERS AND PATRIOTS

The name of Burkhalter is prolific in the state of Georgia where the family has been established since the earliest days of the Colonial era. The family Burkhalter was established in Georgia by five brothers – Michel, Peter, Joshua, Abraham, and John. All of the brothers are said to have come from Alsace – Loraine, where their family fled from religious persecution in Austria and Germany. Members of their sect were scattered as refugees in the Swiss Alps, Holland, and England; and to alleviate their sufferings, General Oglethorpe offered them asylum in the colony of Georgia.

Michel Burkhalter was born in the year 1725, and the record of his death in an old family Bible, yet in existence, shows that he died in 1828 at the patriachal age of 103 years. He was a land holder who at one time settled in Frederica, Georgia, and later located in South Carolina.

Michel's wife, Barbara, lived only a short while after coming to America. In 1750, he married Martha Newsome, whose father was a patriot in the Revolution and belonged to the Newsome family from Yorkshire, England. Martha was a woman of ability and a proper companion to her husband. She, like her husband, held Headrights in Christ Church Parish, and in 1762, she received a grant of land in Warren County. Being a woman of means, she contributed her time and money to the cause of independence. She opened her home, which was near the battle site of Kettle Creek, to wounded soldiers whom she nursed back to health.

Michel Burkhalter and his wife Martha, had several children, among whom was John, born at Edgefield, South Carolina. John was a versatile man of great detemination and of whom it was said, "God never made another one like him." He was of heroic size, being six feet two inches in height and weighing nearly 400 pounds. John Burkhalter served continuously in the militia until the close of the war and afterwards received Revolutionary lands in Washington County.

John married Sarah M. and in his will, recorded at Washington, Georgia, his children are named: Michel, John, Joshua, Jacob, Jeremiah, Isaac, Mary and Barborough. John Burkhalter died at the age of 98 years. His grave is located on a plantation a few miles from Buena Vista, Georgia, and it was marked by the Lanahassee Chapter of the Georgia Daughters of the American Revolution. The marker was unveiled by the great granddaughters, Misses Ruth and Esther Short.

Jacob Burkhalter, John and Sarah's third son, also served in the Revolution under General Clark. He was the student of the family and a man of literary taste. He made his home in Warrenton, Warren County, Georgia, where he built the first colonial house in the county, the columns of the porch being the square type used in that day. It was here that General Lafayette on his last visit to America, spent two weeks being nursed back to

health from a severe cold. The Burkhalters treasure an heirloom, a glass mug, which was General Lafayette's gift to Jacob Burkhalter.

Jacob Burkhalter's son was John Lawson, born in 1805. He was a man of six feet one and one-half inches in height and weighed 300 pounds. He was conspicuous for the elegance of his dress and always wore a broadcloth suit, white vest and carried a gold-headed cane." He owned many slaves and acres of land. He married Evelyn Catherine Scott.

The Burkhalter men were characterized by their great height and strong and sturdy build, and they gave their services in every war of this country. The Burkhalter women who were descendants of Michel and John have come forward with enthusiasm in the work of the Daughters of the American Revolution. One of them, Mrs. John Franklin Little of Washington, D. C., was instrumental in organizing a chapter at Warrenton, Georgia, and through her successful efforts at research, many of the Burkhalter descendants have been enabled to become members of this organization.

JACOB A. ALLEN

Jacob A. Allen, son of Jacob Allen and his wife, Henrietta (Harbuck) Allen, was born July 24, 1839, in Warren County and obtained his education in the schools of the county.

When he was 18 years of age, he secured a position in New York City with Tracy Irwin and Co., wholesale dry goods merchants, and traveling through the South and West in the interest of the firm, he succeeded in building up a large trade. When the War Between the States was declared, he resigned his position and came South. He was a Southerner and his heart was in the Southern cause. When the struggle was over, he again began work for the New York firm.

On July 17, 1867, Jake Allen married Miss Mary Cody of Warren County. Theirs was the first wedding to take place in the Warrenton Methodist Church which was destroyed by fire in 1904.

He resigned his position in New York and entered the mercantile business with Mr. Dick Heath about 1870. When Mr. Heath died a few years later, Mr. E. B. Farmer bought the interest of Mr. Heath and entered the business under the name of "Allen and Farmer." Jake Allen's contact with the northern markets and his familiarity with dry goods made the store one of the most popular and up-to-date establishments in the South.

When Jake Allen severed his connections with New York, he joined the Methodist Church at Warrenton and was always an active member, being a steward for many years. He and Dr. W. J. Walker and Dr. R. W. Hubert planted the grove at the Methodist Church.

He lived in the home later occupied by the W. W. Pilcher family, and he planted the beautiful shade trees on that street. A room in his home was known as the "Preachers Room" and they were always welcome. He was very hospitable and enjoyed having visitors in his home.

Jake Allen died on May 31, 1898.

JOSEPH BREED

Joseph Breed, a Revolutionary soldier, is buried in Warren County. His will is found in the first will book in the Ordinary's office. He had three sons – William, John, and Avera – and four daughters – Priscilla, who married

Richard George; Sarah, who married a Mr. Hoff; and Nancy and Catherine, who were married at the time Joseph Breed's will was made. It is supposed that he came to Georgia from Connecticut and settled in that part of Wilkes County that was later cut off into Warren County. He owned lands on Middle Creek.

THOMAS NEAL

Thomas Neal was a Revolutionary soldier. He died in Warren County in 1799. He was the father of Samuel Neal, also a Revolutionary soldier.

SAMUEL NEAL

Samuel Neal married Patsy McCormick, who was a daughter of James McCormick, and his second wife Katherine (Oliver) McCormick,. Katherine was from Warren County. Samuel died in Warren County in 1803.

JAMES NEAL

James Neal, born in Warren County, September 19, 1796, was the son of Samuel and Patsy McCormick Neal. James married Eliza Bell of Warren County. After his death, he married Eliza Davenport, who was born in Virginia. The children of James and Eliza Davenport Neal were:

James Neal, born September 4, 1826, Warrenton, Georgia; Aramnita Neal, born October 14, 1828, Autanza County, Alabama; John Neal, born January 2, 1832, Butter County, Alabama; Sarah Neal (Carter) born February 2, 1833, Pensacola, Florida; Mary Ann Neal, born October 11, 1834, Pensacola, Florida; Louisa Neal, born June 8, 1837, Russel County, Alabama; Josephine Neal, born November 13, 1839, Russel County, Alabama; Wade Neal, born May 2, 1842, Russel County, Alabama; Samuel Neal, born May 27, 1840, Russel County, Alabama.

JOHN SMITH JOHNSON

John Smith Johnson was born October 7, 1824, in Warren County. His father was a Virginian. John was educated in the schools of Warren County. He was married July 23, 1876, to Miss Sarah Stapleton. During the War he served in Col. Pottle's regiment and was wounded at Nickajack Ridge, near the foot of Kennesaw Mountain on July 4, 1864. For 25 years, Mr. Johnson was a Justice of the Peace and for 20 years he was county surveyor.

JAMES CODY

James Cody, with his two brothers, emigrated to America from Ireland about 1735. He settled on the James River, in Virginia, not very far from Richmond. From there he moved to Halifax County, North Carolina. He lived a number of years in this county, and here nearly all of his children were born.

While living in Virginia, James Cody married Sarah Womack, who had come to America with her sister and brother. James and Sarah Cody had the following children:

Mary, Jacob, Ailse, Edmund, Jesse, John, Richard, Michael, and David.

A few years after the Revolutionary War, in which at least two of the older sons took part, in the readjustment that followed independence and expansion, the sons of James Cody were attracted by the fertile fields of Georgia, the milder climate, and the cheaper land.

About 1791, James Cody and his wife, already grown to be quite old, followed thier sons to Georgia and settled on Briar Creek in Warren County about two miles from where their son Michael lived, These two old people died at this place about 1795.

MARY CODY

Mary Cody, the first child of James and Sarah Cody, was born in Virginia at least 35 years before the Revolutionary War began. She was married to George Lumpkin of Halifax County, Virginia, about 1760. They reared four children: John, Joseph, Robert, and Mary.

This couple moved from Virginia to Oglethorpe County, Georgia, about 1784 and brought their children with them. Their children and grandchildren did well, and their descendants have from time to time ranked among the most prominent citizens of the state.

Wilson Lumpkin, one of the grandsons of Mary and George Lumpkin, was elected to the Legislature from Oglethorpe County when he was only 21 years of age and was re-elected several times. After representing his district in Congress for several terms, he was elected Governor of Georgia in 1831 and was re-elected in 1833. He served Georgia as United States Senator for four years, from 1837 to 1841.

JACOB CODY

Little is known of Jacob, the second son of James Cody except he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and it was said that he was "much dreaded by the Tories."

EDMUND CODY

The fourth child of James and Sarah Cody was Edmund, who was born in Halifax County, North Carolina, April 29, 1754. He married Catherine Donelson, who was born in 1758 and died October 2, 1813. Edmund Cody was a large land and slave owner. He had six children, four of whom lived to maturity and reared large families. Sarah, one of his daughters, married George W. Hardaway, who was an energetic and successful planter of the old school. Sarah and George had eleven children, all but two of whom lived to maturity, and many of them had large families of their own.

JESSE CODY

The fifth child of James Cody was Jesse. He moved from Warren County to Gwinnett County, Georgia.

JOHN CODY

John Cody, the sixth child of James and Sarah Cody, was born in North

Carolina in 1760. He also moved to Warren County after the Revolutionary War. He was a soldier in the War of 1812 and soon after that war moved to Alabama, settling in Pike County. He had five children, all of whom married and reared families in Alabama except the fourth child Abner, who went to Texas in 1830.

John Cody was among the earlier settlers of Alabama, and mention of him is made in the historical records of that state.

RICHARD CODY

Richard Cody, the seventh child of James Cody, lived in Warren County, Georgia. He had two sons, William and Richard, who went West and were lost sight of.

MICHAEL CODY

Michael Cody, the eighth child of James Cody, was born in Halifax County, North Carolina, June 23, 1768. This was three years after the notorious "Stamp Act" was passed by the British Parliament and two years before the tea was thrown overboard in Boston harbor. It was troublesome times. The whole country was passing through the throes of uncertainty that presaged war with the mother country.

The war at last came and for seven years Michael's state and country were war-torn and desolated by the British and Tories. At the close of the war Michael was 14 years old. He had enjoyed no educational advantages whatever, for none could be had in the distressed condition of the country. When peace came, it found the country impoverished, and it was necessary for Michael Cody, large for his age and strong of limb, to take his place on the farm and work, early and late, for his daily bread. He remained with his father in North Carolina until he was 21 years old.

About 1789, he moved to Georgia and settled on Briar Creek in Warren County. In a year or so after reaching Georgia, he married Mary Hodo, and by hard work and close economy, he was able to purchase a small piece of land which was regarded as very poor. Michael and Mary had five children, two daughters and three sons. The names of their children were Mary, Peter, James, Elizabeth and Green.

In 1812,Michael's wife Mary died. After remaining a widower over five years, he married his second wife Rebecca Rogers, a daughter of Reuben Rogers. By Rebecca, he had four children: Marion Michael, Jeptha Melton, Louisa Amanda, Madison Derrel. All of these children lived to be grown, to marry, and to rear families.

Michael Cody lived 15 years after his second marriage. He died March 8, 1832, at the age of 63 years, eight months and 14 days.

DAVID CODY

David Cody was the ninth and youngest child of James and Sarah Cody. He was born in Halifax County, North Carolina, in 1770. He married Polly Sallis, and they had two sons, Lawson and Hillman. David moved from Warren County to Stewart County where he died in 1852 at 82 years of age.

MARION MICHAEL CODY

Marion Michael Cody was the oldest child of Michael and Rebecca Cody. He was born on December 3, 1818. On the day he was 21 years old, he married Rachel English, the daughter of Aaron English.

The year succeeding his marriage, Marion Cody began keeping house in his father's old homestead. He remained at this place for two or three years when he bought a small tract of land adjoining his own from a widow of Henry Adams. He moved to the Adams house and occupied it a long time, for most of his children were born here. When his growing family demanded a more commodious house, he built a large square and substantial dwelling on the spot where the Adams house stood.

Marion and Rachel had a large family and five of his children grew to maturity. They are as follows:

1. Sophronia married Mr. N. Gallaher, an Irishman who at the time of his marriage was merchandising in Warrenton. Their children were Mary, who married Mr. Ernest Neal; Annie, who died in girlhood; Agnes, who married a Mr. Briggs and lived in Atlanta; and Lee, a son who grew to manhood and died.

2. James M. Wellborn Cody had his Uncle Jim Wellborn's full name. He merchandised in Warrenton for a number of years. He married Laura, a daughter of Vinson Johnson of Warren County. They had one daughter, Minnie, who married Charles Fitzpatrick, a prominent and successful banker at Warrenton. James Cody was killed on the street of Warrenton by Mr. C. E. McGregor. His death created a great sensation.

3. Lucy Ellen married a Mr. J. C. Hardie on October 3, 1882.

4. Louise married a distant cousin, Edmund Cody. They had one child, Daisy, who married Mr. D. C. Adams and lived in Atlanta.

5. Jeptha M. Cody married Susan Johnson January 16, 1873. She died young and left no children. Jeptha never married again after losing his young wife. He died suddenly April 12, 1913.

6. Ann married first Mr. W. T. Andrews of Green County, and after his death February 15, 1899, she married a Mr. Boswell. She had no children.

7. Taylor Cody was the seventh child and the youngest son of Marion Cody. He died November 17, 1881.

8. The eighth child, Sarah Theodosia, born November 17, 1859, married George W. Felts. She was accidentally shot in the hand and died October 9, 1906. She left one son, Marion L. Felts, Esq., a prominent and successful lawyer of Warrenton, Georgia.

9. The youngest child, Fannie Derrell, was married to a Mr. Storey after her mother's death.

The mother of the above children died January 16, 1894, and was buried in the family burying ground. Her husband, Marion, lived more than seven years after her death. He died the night of June 22, 1901, in Siloam, but his remains were brought to Warrenton and he was buried by his wife.

LOUISA AMANDA WELLBORN

Louisa Amanda, the second child of Michael and Rebecca Cody, was born August 2, 1820. After attending Briar Creek Academy for some years, her mother sent her to an excellent school at Eatonton, Georgia. She attended

this school when she was 17 years old and the following year she married James M. Wellborn.

Louisa Amanda and James M. Wellborn had two children, Mary Rebecca and Lou Derrelle. Mary married Dr. James Camak of Athens, Georgia. He was a man of wealth and culture. Lou Derrelle, the second child, married Charles S. DuBose, a rising young lawyer who was born and reared in Sparta. He graduated from the University of Georgia and afterwards located at Warrenton for the practice of law.

JEPTHA MELTON CODY

Jeptha Melton Cody was born January 15, 1823. His early schooling was acquired at the Briar Creek Academy, a country school, about two miles from the Cody home. He went for a short time to a popular school for boys and girls at LaGrange in Troup County. He completed his education at Mercer University.

In 1842, he began reading medicine under Dr. Thomas Jones, who was considered to be the best doctor in Warrenton. He afterwards took lectures in Augusta and completed his medical studies at the Medical College in Philadelphia. He very soon afterwards began the practice of medicine in Warrenton.

On January 16, 1845, the day after reaching his 22 birthday, Jeptha Cody was married to Miss Missouri Eliza Cheeley. She was barely out of girlhood as she lacked six days of being 18 years old.

Jeptha's practice soon increased and became so lucrative that he was able to buy a farm on the Augusta road east of what was called the Newt Gunn place. It was at this house that his young wife died at the age of 22 years. She had been the mother of three children: Charles Franklin who lived only 11 months; Louisa Anna; and Lucillius Lewis. Not very long after his wife's death, Jeptha sold the farm he had bought, but he continued the practice of medicine in and about Warrenton.

Jeptha Cody married his second wife, Miss Amanda Melvina Carr of Covington, Georgia, on March 11, 1851. About two years later, he moved to Covington. His wife Amanda died on January 21, 1858 at the age of 25 years. On January 21, 1864, exactly six years from the death of Amanda, Dr. Cody died. He was only 41 years old when his career was cut short by death.

MADISON DERRELL CODY

Madison Derrell Cody was born September 27, 1824. He attended school for only a few months at the old Briar Creek school after which he entered school in Warrenton. He then attended Franklin College, graduating in the class of 1848. While at college, he was an excellent student. He was awarded first honor and was appointed to deliver the valedictory.

After Derrell Cody's college days were over, he returned to his Warren County home. Possessing a trained literary taste, he acquired a good library in his home. With considerable leisure at his disposal, he settled down to the ideal life of the Southern planter.

On February 24, 1852, Madison Derrell Cody and Frances Martha Carr were married in the old Carr home at Covington, Georgia. Within a year after his marriage, he was elected to the Legislature from Warren County. The

capital at that time was Milledgeville. Although he was one of the youngest members of the Legislature, he served on some of the important committees and was chairman of a number of them.

Derrell Cody took a great interest in public affairs during the turbulent days that preceded secession and the Civil War. He was an occasional and welcome contributor to the daily press, and when he felt moved to, would speak in public meetings. He was a personal friend of Alexander H. Stephens, and though at times he differed with Stephens, generally he was his supporter.

Because of his wife's insistence, Derrell moved his family to Covington in February, 1861. His health was very poor during these years. He was exempt from military duty because the doctors said he could not stand the hardship of a soldier's life.

After having moved his family back to Warren County to escape Sherman's raiders on their march through Georgia from Atlanta, Cody moved back to Covington. He was elected Mayor of Covington in 1868 and held that office for several terms.

Cody's wife Fannie died on August 28, 1872, and he followed her in death on January 25, 1875.

SOLOMON AND THOMAS LOCKETT

Among the early settlers of Wilkes County, Georgia, were two brothers, Solomon and Thomas Lockett. The date of their birth must have been years prior to the Revolutuoinary War.

Solomon Lockett was a wealthy and substantial citizen who lived on Williams Creek in the extreme northern portion of Warren County. His wife's maiden name was Martha Alford. Solomon and his wife had three sons – Uriah, Warren, and Dr. Cullen – and one daughter, Cynthia.

Thomas Lockett lived in the southern part of Warren County until his death in 1842. His old home wassituated on Rocky Comfort Creek.Nothing is known of his family by his first wife. His second wife, Temperance Rogers, was the daughter of Reuben Rogers, Sr. Thomas and Temperance had the following children: Cullen Rogers, Reuben, Thomas, Solomon, Chloe, Betsy, and Rebecca.

JOHN LAMAR

John Lamar, a planter in Warren County, owned a large plantation on the Ogeechee River near Mayfield.

It is historically related that Zachariah Lamar, a bachelor brother of John Lamar, resided with him and "gave himself up to the ideal world of literature and history." He delighted in "the glamour of that realm of letters in which he lived." He had ideals in history; "so when the sons of John Lamar and his wife were born, Zachariah claimed the privilege of naming his infant nephews after his favorite of the moment, and the amiable and doubtless amused parents consented." Thus the sons of John Lamar were named Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus and Marabeau Buonaparte.

John Lamar moved to Putnam County when his son Lucius was still a child and settled about eight or ten miles south of Eatonton. His home is known to history and tradition as "the Lamar homestead." Because Little

River glides murmuringly near, the owner of the homestead was given the name "Little River John."

The son of Lucius, also named Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus, became a famous representative in Congress, United States senator, Secretary of the Treasury, and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Maribeau Buonaparte Lamar won his chief fame as the second President of the Republic of Texas. His versatility of talent gave him distinction on the field of battle and in the realms of statesmanship, diplomacy, and journalism.

LAWRENCE BATTLE, SR.

The ancestors of Lawrence Battle can be traced as far back as 400 A. D. in the days of the prehistoric kings of Britain. The first member of the Battle family to come to America was John Battle, who came from Yorkshire, England to Virginia.

Lawrence's father was John Hartwell Battle and his mother was the former Polly Bailey, the daughter of Pierce Bailey, Sr. Lawrence married Anna Rebecca Proctor, a member of an outstanding Virginia family.

Lawrence and Anna Rebecca resided at Barnett in Warren County. He was a very rich man whose home was the center, on all occasions, for entertainment of the most distinguished and notable men of his day. Lawrence and his wife had six children: Claud Pierce, Marye Lulu, Minnie Adelaide, Maude Lillian, Beader Lawrence, Jr., and James Hartwell.

Their eldest daughter was Claud Pierce Battle, who died early in life. She is buried in the Battle cemetery at Barnett, Georgia, her birthplace.

Their second daughter was Marye Lulu Battle, who also died early in life and is buried in the Battle cemetery at Barnett.

The third daughter of Lawrence and Anna Rebecca Battle was Minnie Adelaide, who married James Frederick Allen, formerly of Warrenton but who later resided in New York City.

Maude Lillian was the fourth daughter of Lawrence Battle. She married Charles Rockford Smith of Washington, Georgia, and they had one daughter, Agnes. Agnes married Carl Zirbees of Racine, Wisconsin.

The oldest son of Lawrence Battle was Beader Lawrence Battle, Jr. He was educated at Emory College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1894. He then entered the University of Georgia, where he graduated from the law school in 1896. He married Marie Stella Allen, the daughter of Jacob Allen and Mary Will Cody Allen of Warrenton, Georgia. Lawrence, Jr. and his wife had two sons: Beader Lawrence III and Jacob Allen.

James Hartwell Battle, second son of Lawrence Battle, Sr., was born at Barnett and educated at Emory College. He was President and Director of the Citizens Bank of Warrenton, was one of the trustees of the Battle estate, and served twice as mayor of Warrenton.

He married Bessie, the daughter of Columbus William Cason and Mary Jane Hall Cason. They had one daughter, Louise, who married Cecil Whiteley, the son of J. W. Whiteley of Warrenton.

CHAPTER 5

Towns

BARNETT

Barnett is a small village, located on the Georgia Railroad and the Washington branch railroad. It is 13 miles northwest of Warrenton, 113 miles southeast of Atlanta, and 58 miles from Augusta. In the 1930's it had a depot, Southern Express and a Western Union Telegraph office, several stores, a public ginnery, a Baptist and Methodist Church and a consolidated school. The depot at Barnett was built in 1863, and the business of the Georgia Railroad transferred from Double Wells, or Cumming. The post office was Double Wells and the railroad station Barnett. Unable to stand the confusion consequent upon a town with two names, the railroad moved its station from Cumming to Barnett, which was named in honor of Samuel Barnett; and the post office department withdrew its office from Double Wells and the one town with two names became a lost town in Warren County. Only one house uninhabited and greatly impaired by the ravages of time marks the place where Double Wells and Cumming lost out in the battle for existence in favor of Barnett.

Mr. Lawrence Battle, Sr., a late resident of Barnett, gave the plot of ground on which the Methodist Church stands and contributed $500 towards the erecting of the church building in 1877.

In 1931, a new school building was constructed approximately one mile from Barnett. The building is still standing today. It is owned by the Shivers family and is being used to store farm commodities. Some of the teachers who taught in the new school were: Helen Barksdale Chapman, Mrs. Wheat, Miss Wheat, Mrs. Gay and Mrs. Tucker.

In 1932, the school was consolidated with Norwood. Two gentlemen, Mr. Joe Tucker and Mr. Leon Chafin, were appointed to carry the children from the Barnett district to Norwood. They used their cars and traveled over very rough and almost impassable roads. Pupils from Redlick, Williams Creek, Flat Rock and other places had to make the change from a new building with a few students to an old building with more students.

In 1932, there were five stores operating in Barnett: Coleman Smith, P. C. Fielding, T. B. Chapman, Mrs. W. F. Weathers and Mr. G. T. Ledbetter. Mr.

Ledbetter also operated a cotton gin from 1930 to 1937. Guy H. Shivers, Sr. ginned the first bale of cotton at the gin and Mr. Ledbetter did this free of charge. The gin was destroyed by fire in 1937.

Mr. C. H. Allen was the policeman in Barnett. Mrs. Mat McAlpin operated a restaurant, Mr. Ed O'Brien operated a barber shop, and Mr. Fielding the Post Office. The Post Office has become nonexistent and the people of the community are served by RFD from Norwood. When the depot was torn down in 1974, the lower level was buried beneath the earth and leveled over even with the ground so that one could hardly tell where it had stood for years.

Among the original buildings which stood at Cumming was the Post Office which had been used for a grocery store, legion store, warehouse and haybarn. This building burned in 1954. It was near the place where the Stage Coach Inn with the Double Wells was located. It was called Double Wells because there were two wells, one to be used for the people of the Inn and one to be used for the horses. The wells still remain today. The Inn burned in 1950. The last people to live in the Inn were the W. H. Shelton family in 1898. Mr. Shelton was Justice of the Peace for 15 years. Mr. Shelton was the great-grandfather of Guy H. Shivers, Jr., who lives near Barnett at the present time.

Mr. T. J. Ledbetter protected the Mormans from being beaten up by a mob of people, who had gathered near a place called "Huckle Berry Pond." Mr. Ledbetter insisted they move on to other parts of the country to prevent trouble.

Except for the fires which the train set in passing, the old buildings would still remain.

The house in which Mr. G. T. Ledbetter now lives was originally built by a Mr. Moore to be used as a hotel in 1820. There was also a horse-operated gin here. Mr. Ledbetter remodeled the house in 1920, and has made other improvements on it through the years and up to the present time. This house, the Barnett Methodist Church, the home of Mrs. Lucille Lewis and Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Smith are the oldest buildings remaining of the ones which originally stood. The modern home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chapman is the newest building now.

Near Mr. Ledbetter's home is a stone which marks the grave of the first man who was killed on the Georgia Railroad. The stone was buried beneath the debris when Highway 278 was built in 1934-1937. Barnett now has the Georgia Railroad, Highway 278 and Interstate 20 running through it. There are approximately 50 to 60 people now living in the village.

One store is in operation, Mr. Joe H. Chapman's Grocery. On the outskirts of town Mr. Direnzo operates a licenced beer store.

Families who previously lived here were Allens, Rays, Ledfords, Taylors, Weathers, Careys, Atchinsons, Fieldings, Sturdivants, Raleys, Johnsons, Tuckers, Bristow and others. These have either moved to other places or passed away.

The town is now occupied by only five families: Chapman, Lewis, Smith, Johnson and Ledbetter. Among the families living near the village now, are the Shivers, Quinn, Dye, Neal, Direnzo, Thorne, Johnson, Chafin, and Shelton.

CAMAK

Camak is located at the junction of the Georgia Railroad and the Savannah and Atlanta Railroad. It is 4 miles from Warrenton and 45 miles from Augusta.

It was on December 22, 1898, that the Town of Camak was incorporated under the name of Camak, by the General Assembly, State of Georgia, with the corporate powers being invested in A. W. Mershon, Mayor; J. A. Chapman, Clerk; S. W. Ivey, J. B. Johnson and Robert D. Mayes, Aldermen, for the term of one year. The Charter was signed by John D. Little, Speaker of the House; Wm. A. Dodson, President of the Senate; and it was approved by Hon. A. D. Candler, Governor.

The town was named for a lawyer, James A. Camak, who was the first president of the Georgia Railroad. He was born in 1795, and died in 1857, at his home on Meigs St. in Athens, Georgia.

Most of the land was owned by William Mayes, Sr., and his brothers. A transfer of some property from William Mayes to Alfred Mayes was made in 1859, and was recorded by R. W. Miller.

The home of the late Dr. Silas Mayes dates to the 1870's. It is put together with wooden pegs and is built of very strong material. At the present time, it is owned by a grandson, William J. Mayes, Jr.

The Arch Toy home, which was the same two-story type structure, was swept away by the cyclone of 1875, leaving only the foundation. It was rebuilt and stood until it was dismantled 100 years later for commercial use. A freak incident of this cyclone was that a shingle was found embedded in a telephone pole. A portion of the pole was later placed on exhibit in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

As property could be obtained, homes were built on both sides of the railroad tracks so that the workers would walk to their work. This resulted in the small town being laid out with the railroad in the center. A few stores were also constructed near the depot which had been built previously.

John A. Chapman, Sr., was the agent and telegraph operator for the railroad in 1890, and remained as agent for 50 years. A Western Union office was added upstairs in the depot. This resulted in a larger force of operators and clerks. In the same year, Alec S. Rogers owned a small store nearby for the convenience of the railroad workers.

Some of the later successful merchants were W. G. Rogers, John Farr, Rom Fuller, the Maxey Bros., R. W. Ware, C. D. Kitchens, the Sheppard Bros., Ray T. Fuller, W. B. Wilkerson and Sons, A. E. Kitchens, Matt Kitchens, W. H. Guill, J. H. Chapman, C. B. Sawyer, Ed Cofer, H. S. Kitchens, Allison Kitchens, Berry Bros., and J. & J. Grocery. The Wm. M. Moore General Merchandise remains in business after serving the public for 70 years.

In the early days of Camak, Dr. Patillo owned a drug store. Other practicing physicians were Dr. De La Perriere and Dr. E. K. Lazenby. John D. Walker of Sparta was owner of a bank and the first cashier was J. I. F. Tharpe. R. T. Mayes built the old blacksmith shop, and William Hughes, Sr., was the first blacksmith. The first hotel was known as the "Wright House." It was here that Camak's "Southern Fried Chicken Lunches" were made famous by Miss Fannie Wright. In the years that followed, the lunches became a tradition. A skating rink was owned and operated by C. D.

Kitchens. It became a popular pastime for both young and old. The "Red and White Ball Team" made a name for itself in the early days and was associated with each team that was organized thereafter. At one time Camak boasted of two telegraph offices – the Postal and the Western Union.

In 1917, Camak became a terminal for the Savannah and Atlanta Railroad, thus making it an important and prosperous junction, with trains connecting with Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, and Savannah. This provided both passenger and freight passage many times daily. The Crescent News Restaurant, located in the building connected with the railroad station, brought in new workers.

The children of the early days began their education in a one-room school building with one teacher. In 1906, a two-story brick school building was erected, under the leadership of J. L. Oliver, Mayor; J. A. Chapman, Clerk; and Councilmen B. A. Guill, W. D. West, W. T. Mayes, and E. C. Chapman. A modern building replaced it in 1938, with H. C. Hunt, Chm., C. P. Lazanby, Secy., G. C. Norris, J. P. Peacock, and E. J. Lee, Trustees of the school. The Junior High School served the communities of Camak, Mesena, and Macedonia well, until it was closed in May, 1956, because of county consolidation.

A Masonic Lodge, F & AM No. 607, was organized in 1911. Its members have been very active for 65 years. Cleopatra Chapter No. 241, Order of Eastern Star was organized in 1923, under the leadership of Mrs. Pearl Mershon Chapman and Mr. W. E. Smith. Seven members have received 50 year pins.

The climate of the town is ideal with long hot summers and short mild winters which makes it an appropriate place for the two large industries located nearby – the Martin Marietta Rock Quarry and the ITT Rayonier, Inc.

The Methodist Church has been in existence since 1870. William Mayes, Sr., donated the land for the church and the cemetery which serves the community today. On March 20, 1875, the church building was damaged by a cyclone. It was repaired, only to be damaged again by the cyclone of 1887.

The Baptist Church was organized in 1901. It was built on a site of land donated by Mrs. Maurel Lazenby Jones for that purpose. In February, 1934, it was destroyed by fire. The new church was completed in February, 1936.

Both churches are brick edifices, standing proudly, and have been the foundation of the Christian faith upon which the town has rested through the years.

Today, Camak has a public water system, a volunteer fire department, and sanitation service. It has 230 residents.

GEORGETOWN
A Lost Town in Warren County

Among the lost towns of Georgia might be listed Georgetown, once a flourishing township located in the southwestern portion of Warren County. That the town existed is shown in the records in the office of the clerk of court in the courthouse at Washington, Wilkes County, (from which Warren County received a portion of land), and later in Warren County after it was established.

Crossing the old public county line road that leads from Shoals to Augusta

(about one mile from Shoals) was an old Indian trail which later became known as the Old Georgetown Road. This road ran north toward Warrenton and south toward the Ogeechee River. Between the crossroads and the river was situated the town of Georgetown. It must have been a good-sized town because the street were named. In bounding the lots that changed hands, mention is made of Asbury Street, Jameson Street, Dame Street, and Broad Street. On a map elsewhere in this volume and engraved in 1818, Georgetown is given as one of the towns of Warren County.

The road that led to Georgetown from the northern part of the county went by Norris, better known as "Four Mile Siding."

The first mention of Georgetown was made in 1791, and at that time Augusta was the nearest market and the city from which supplies were secured. There were no railroads and Georgetown's water-routed freight was quite a convenience to the farmers of Warren County, even though it had to be hauled for miles in ox carts and mule-drawn wagons. A warehouse was located in Georgetown in which freight brought by pole boats up and down the Ogeechee River was stored, and the farmers would go with their wagons and convey these supplies to their respective homes.

Records show that John Barnhill deeded to William Devereaux Lot No. 7 in the town of Georgetown, April 19, 1791. This was two years before Warren County was created. Harris R. Patrick and A. Devereaux were testators. There were business houses in Georgetown. William Riley and John Hammill are known to have been merchants there.

JEWELL

Mr. William Shivers came to Warren County in the early years of the nineteenth century and built a cotton mill on the Ogeechee River and called it Rock Factory. There were 500 spindles and 40 operatives who were paid $7.75 a month. In 1840, Eli Carr, superintendent of a cotton mill in Baltimore with a salary of $700 per year, was brought to Jewell by Mr. Shivers who offered him $1,000 per year. Soon a store was operated to supply the hands and the area containing the mill. The homes of the operatives and the store became known as "Shivers."A map of Warren County on display at Georgia University, printed in 1818, gives Shivers among the towns in Warren County. In 1856, the property passed into the hands of a firm known as Jewell, Bodfish and Eldridge. The members of the firm were educated men and appreciated the value of education and religion in a community. Excellent teachers were employed and their children were given the best advantages. Jewell has always been noted in the county for its musical characters. A superior class of operatives and a high grade of citizenry cooperated in making an ideal town and it proved to be a "jewell" indeed. The homes of the operators were large and commodious, with beautiful and effective trees and shrubbery. Some of these are still standing and are monuments to those departed builders.

A few years later, Mr. D. A. Jewell, who came to Warren County from Winchester, N. H., the Jewell of the above-named firm, bought the interest of his partners and operated the mill himself. A thriving little town developed and it then became known as Jewell. The mill was called Jewell's Mill.

The setting of the town was quite picturesque, and it had the distinction of lying in two counties, Warren and Hancock. The homes were built on the

high lands on either side of the river and business houses were constructed on both the Warren and Hancock side. The river usually flowed placidly twelve or fifteen feet beneath the iron bridge that spanned it; but during the fall and winter rains, it became a roaring torrent, sometimes rising until even the balustrades on the sides of the bridge were submerged. Later the State Highway Board built a concrete bridge about a hundred yards farther up the river.

In 1920, the mill was sold to Gant Brothers of Burlington, N. C. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1925. Many workers moved to Greensboro, Eatonton, and Chickamauga, Georgia. Others never left Jewell, taking jobs wherever possible. Many of their descendants commute to Augusta, Warrenton, and other places at the present time.

Soon after the purchase of the mill from Mr. William Shivers by Jewell, Bodfish and Eldridge, this firm began developing the religious and social side of the community.

Mr. Eldridge organized an open-air Sunday School which met on the banks of the river. Logs served as seats for the officers and pupils. The little Sunday School flourished. Lessons of morality and piety were taught; and the nearness to nature of their environment, perhaps, made the spiritual truths more forceful.

Realizing that the little school was dependent upon the weather, Mr. Jewell built a house which served jointly as a school house on week days and a church on Sundays and the Sunday School met there also. Here were held union services where members of all denominations of the community worshipped together. This program continued until 1869 when a few Baptists gathered together and organized a church of that faith and proceeded immediately to build a house of worship of their own. Their beautiful brick church was completed and dedicated in 1871, Reverend J. W. Ellington preaching the dedicatory sermon.

The Methodists continued to use the old building until 1894 when they erected a church of their own faith. The churches have worked together in perfect unity and the great good accomplished is incalculable. The little village was noted for its piety and sobriety.

A commodious school house was erected in 1871. Many of the boys and girls have gone out into the world filling responsible positions as doctors, nurses, lawyers, preachers, manufacturers, merchants, farmers and homemakers.

The mill was operated by Mr. Jewell until 1883. At that time the number of spindles was 3600, with 120 looms. A bridge, the first across the Ogeechee, was built at this point.

In previous years the Indians had made fording of the river possible by laying in the bed of the river rocks that had been brought from Stoney Hill, in Warren County. This ford was repaired also, when the bridge was built.

At various times a Masonic Lodge, a Good Templars, a Grange and an order of Odd Fellows were maintained in Jewell. A brass band was also one of her assets. A post office was secured through Mr. Marshall Jewell, who served as Postmaster General under Grant's administration. When the death of Grant was announced, the church bells of Jewell were tolled.

In 1883, the mill changed ownership again. This time the firm became Bowen-Jewell and Company. The firm consisted of the following members: Col. W. L. L. Bowen, D. A. Jewell, II, A. S. Bowen, and J. B. Cody. They increased the number of spindles to 6000 and the looms to 180.

A bag mill was built in 1902, and a ginnery was operated. This bag mill was moved to Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1903, and since has been moved to Chickamauga.

When Sherman's raiders came through Warren County, during the War Between the States in 1865, a captain and two privates of his company came up from Shoals on the Hancock side and stopped at the home of Mr. D. A. Jewell. They asked if there were any horses in the lot. They were told there were no horses (they had been hidden out). They also asked for tobacco which was given them.

They crossed the bridge coming on the Warren County side where the mill was located. Here they found Mr. Jewell and asked for matches saying they intended burning the mill. Mr. Jewell expostulated while Mr. Lanham, the superintendent of the mill, produced the matches.

While standing there, they noticed the sign of the Masonic order that had been cut into one of the rocks which formed the chimney to the mill. The Captain paused long enough to ask if Mr. Jewell were a member of the order. When answered in the affirmative, he ordered his two men to pass on, saying he would attend to the matter. He soon followed, leaving the mill intact. Mr. George Dienning, of Augusta, Georgia, built the mill and it was he who in his love and loyalty to the order had laid on the final touch by cutting the square and compass, the Masonic emblem, on one of the rocks that formed the tall chimney to the mill. Later the chimney to the mill was taken down and this stone, that had saved the mill from the torch, was placed in a set of stone steps at the home of Colonel W. L. L. Bowen called "Idylwilde." Later, the Bowen home burned.

Cason Callaway secured the stone and placed it in Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga., with an appropriate placque telling its history. He was the son of Ida Cason Callaway. She was a resident of Jewell until she married Fuller Callaway.

"Bo" Howard Callaway is a grandson of Ida Cason Callaway. He served as Secretary of the Army under President Ford.

After the Yankee captain spared the mill, he went up the hill and set fire to five hundred bales of cotton belonging to Adam Cason. This cotton amounted to a quarter of a million dollars.

Adam Cason had two sons fighting in the Civil War for four years. He was a son of William Cason who fought two years in the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Jewell followed the captain to Adam Cason's house and begged him to spare the cotton. He was told it was necessary to make "Signal Fires" for Sherman's army to follow the route to Savannah, Georgia.

The Cason family although not connected with the mill were very much involved in the business life of the community. Rogers Cason and Bunyan Cason ran a store for years. Denham Cason grew up in the store and as a boy had the first soda fountain near there. He was also a big dealer in buggies, selling them under his own name, "Comet." In the teens he bought the store across the street which he ran until his death. Hugh Cason went into the Monument (tombstone) business in 1920 and for several years had a sign on his office "Tombstone Territory."

Walter D. Dickson has been operating the Jewell Press since 1940. He does job printing, mainly mail order business, and his specialty is prescription blanks.

Jewell still has its own Post Office. This small town has certainly been a "Jewell" in the history of Warren County.

MAYFIELD

The original town of Mayfield was located in Warren County, one mile from the present site of Mayfield, Hancock County. It was what later became the A. L. Reynolds Estate on which the mill is located and was known for years as the Stephens Place.

Mr. Thomas Whaley who owned the old Mayfield property in the fifties lived just a mile from old Mayfield on the Mayfield-Sparta road and kept the Tavern. It was at this point that the stage horses were changed in their route from Augusta to Milledgeville. During the war this tavern was patronized by the railroad men, as Mayfield was the end of the line of the railroad from Augusta and the stage line from Mayfield to Milledgeville.

In 1875, Mr. Richard Stevens died and his son William Walter Stevens inherited the old Mayfield property. He gave it to his wife and it was owned by her until 1917, when it was sold to A. L. Reynolds. It is now owned by the Estate of A. L. Reynolds.

NORWOOD

At one time Norwood was one of Warren County's most thriving towns. It is situated on the Georgia Railroad four miles from Camak, four miles from Warrenton, and 121 miles southeast of Atlanta, Georgia.

During the War Between the States, Mr. Radford Gunn built a grist mill on the site now known as Norwood, but was then called Gunn's Mill. In 1884, Hon. T. E. Massengale, who represented Warren County in the legislature, presented a bill to incorporate the town. In 1888, while a member of the senate, he had the charter amended and the name changed to Norwood in honor of Hon. Thomas Norwood, a member of Congress from Savannah.

In the 1930's, the population of this thriving town was apprixmately 500. It had a Southern Express office and a Western Union Telegraph office in the depot. In addition to several general stores, there were two drug stores, a grist mill, a shoe shop, Baptist and Methodist churches, a flourishing Junior High School housed in a brick building, a bank owned by G. A. Ray and W. E. Ray with T. N. Ray as cashier, and a large brick cotton warehouse and gin operated by electricity.

Ray Banking Company closed in 1932, followed by the closing of the Southern Express office, and Western Union Telegraph office in 1957. These offices were located in the Georgia Railroad depot which was also closed. The Ray Cotton Gin closed in 1958.

The Norwood business section has decreased over the years and now has only one store and one filling station. The concensus is that this decline was brought about by the increase in the number of automobiles and paved highways. Highway 278 runs through the town and Interstate 20 is only three miles away. The two churches, Methodist and Baptist, are still very active in the community. Norwood is an incorporated town with a mayor and five councilmen. All the streets have been paved for several years. The population in 1974, is approximately 325, a decrease over the years because of no industry locating there, and the decrease of small farms. People had to seek employment elsewhere.

Norwood is proud of the origin of Rural Free Delivery. In 1868, six men along a five-mile route hired Jerry Parsons, a Negro who could not read, to

Photo: E. H. Hightower

Post Office at Jewell

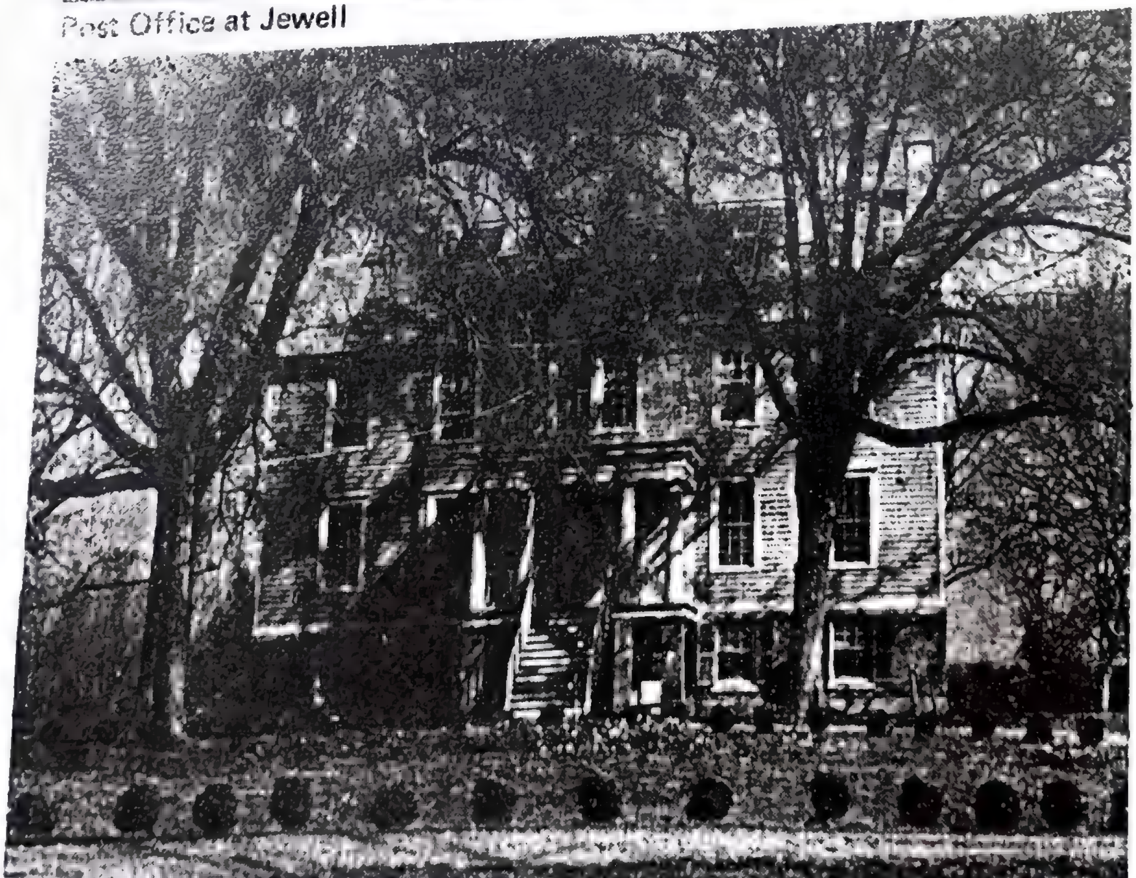
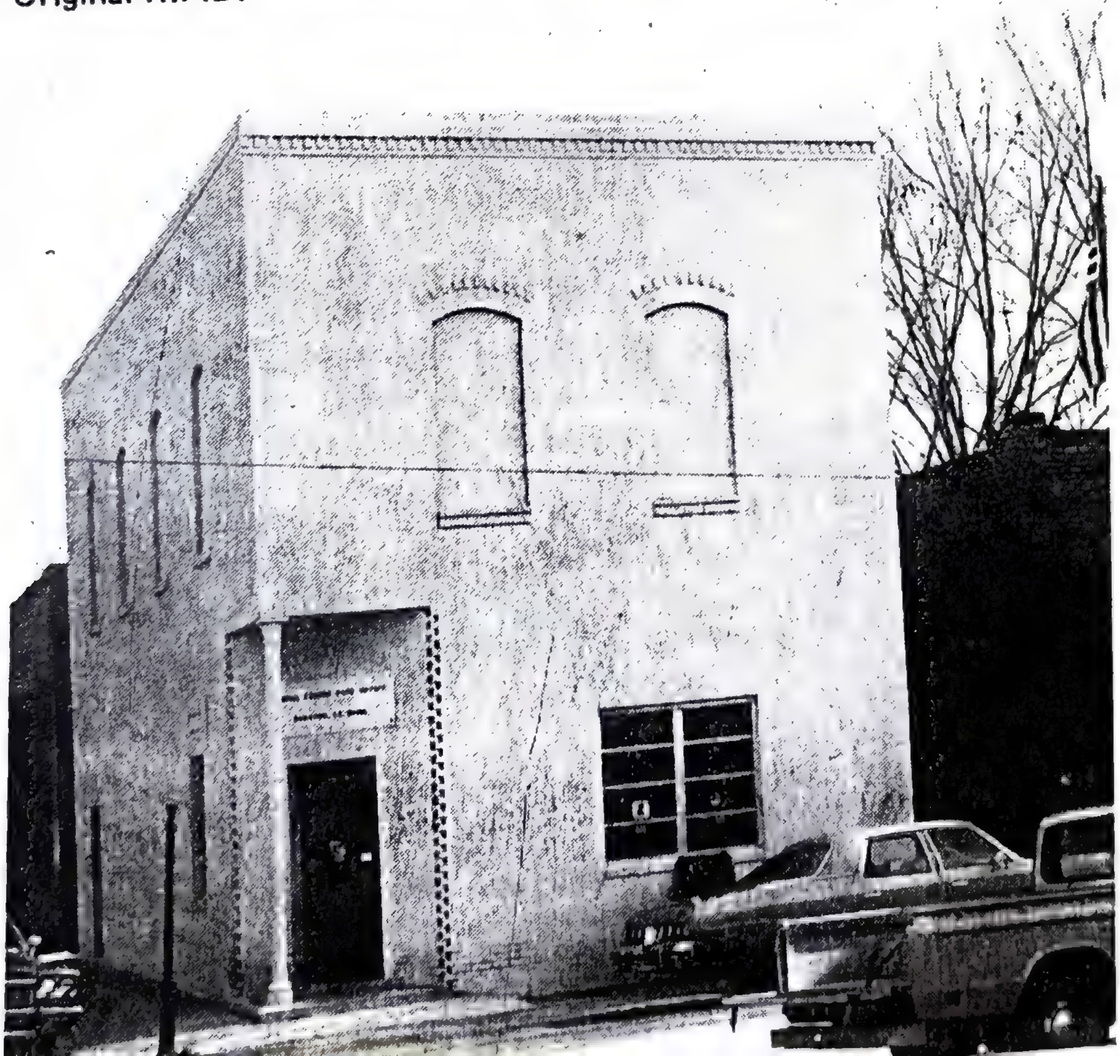


Photo: E. H. Hightower

"Rock Mill" – Near Jewell

Photo: E. H. Hightower

"Original R.F.D." – Norwood



deliver and collect mail at their homes each day except Sundays and holidays. For this service he received food and clothing. Each morning the postmaster at Norwood arranged the mail in correct order and "Uncle Jerry" began his ten mile walk. Thomas E. Watson, then a boy clerking for Hon. T. E. Massengale, observed this perfect plan for Rural Free Delivery. In February, 1893, Senator Watson (then in Congress) sponsored the bill creating Rural Free Delivery, copying "Uncle Jerry's" RFD in Norwood. Norwood still has a post office, but the original three routes have been consolidated into one route of 85 miles.

SHOALS

About five miles below Jewell on the Ogeechee River is a fine water power, which with its surroundings has been known ever since the early settlement of Georgia, as the "Shoals."

Late in the eighteenth century, this property was acquired by Col. Richard Bird, who came from Virginia about that time. It was later owned by a Mr. Cheeley, who was also from Virginia.

The grist mill is large and complete and is arranged to grind both wheat and corn. Col. William Bird also operated a plant for making thread and carding wool. This was the first woolen mill to be established in Georgia. He also experimented with iron ore that was found in that section and established one of the first iron works in Georgia. Indestructible heaps of slag bear testimony to his labors in this line, though it proved to be a failure.

Col. Bird was very wealthy. He and his family were highly educated and cultured and they lived in fine style. His will recorded in the Ordinary's office disposing of his effects confirms the statement that he was a man of means.

The old Bird home was situated in a shaded location just above the dam on the eastern side. A short distance away, among some granite boulders, was a bold spring of clear, cold water. Upon the summit of a hill in the rear is a graveyard. The old dwelling was destroyed by fire in 1894, at that time, owned by Mr. N. H. Coleman.

This old home had the distinction of being the birthplace of William L. Yancey, one of the most notable leaders of the Southern Confederacy who, after the War Between the States, became a United States Senator from Alabama. His mother, who was a relative of the Bird family, was on a visit when his birth took place.

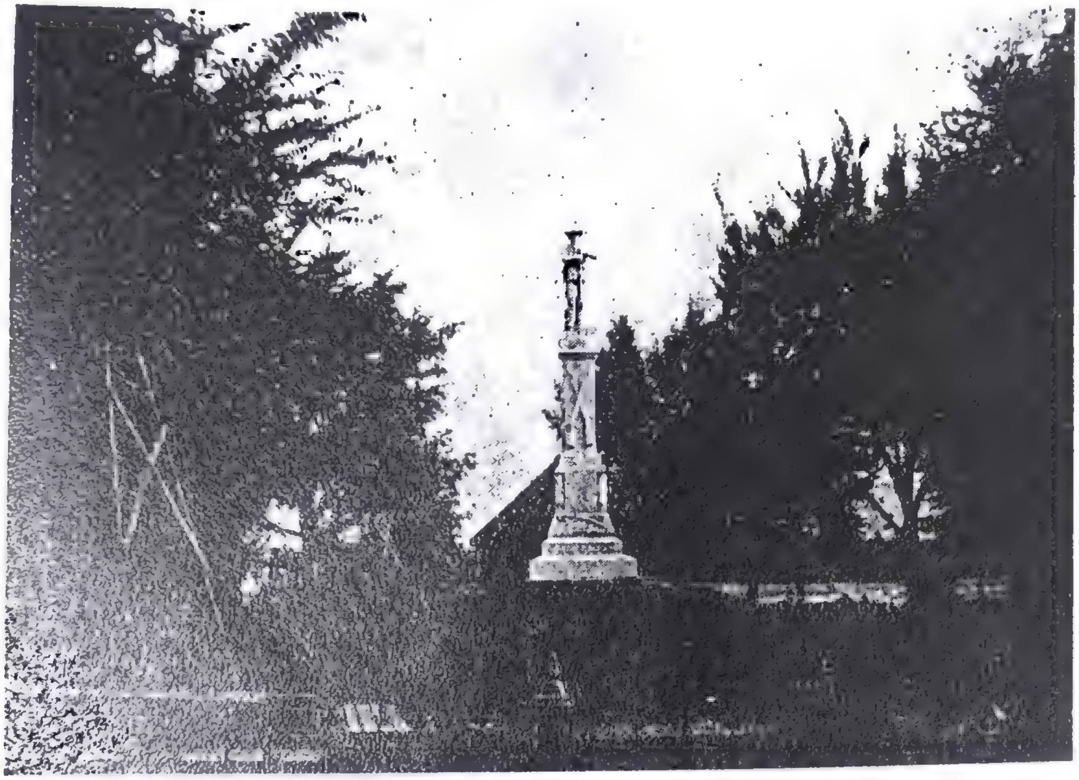
There are several rapids on the Ogeechee, above the Shoals, produced by that strata of granite that permeates the state of Georgia east and west; but below, the river gradually descends into the flat coastal region and slowly winds its tortuous way to the sea.

Sixty years or more ago, the water of this stream was usually clear, but the clearing of the land above and natural erosion of the soil have caused the water to become more or less discolored. This, in a large measure, accounts for the scarcity of fish, which were so plentiful in the old days.

About 1870, it became necessary to replace the old dam with a new one and in tearing away the old one it was disclosed that all the nails used in its construction were forged in a blacksmith's shop. The information has been handed down from father to son that the race, which is cut through solid granite for some distance, was not blasted out with explosives as in the usual

Courthouse, Warrenton, 1974

Photo: E. H. Hightower

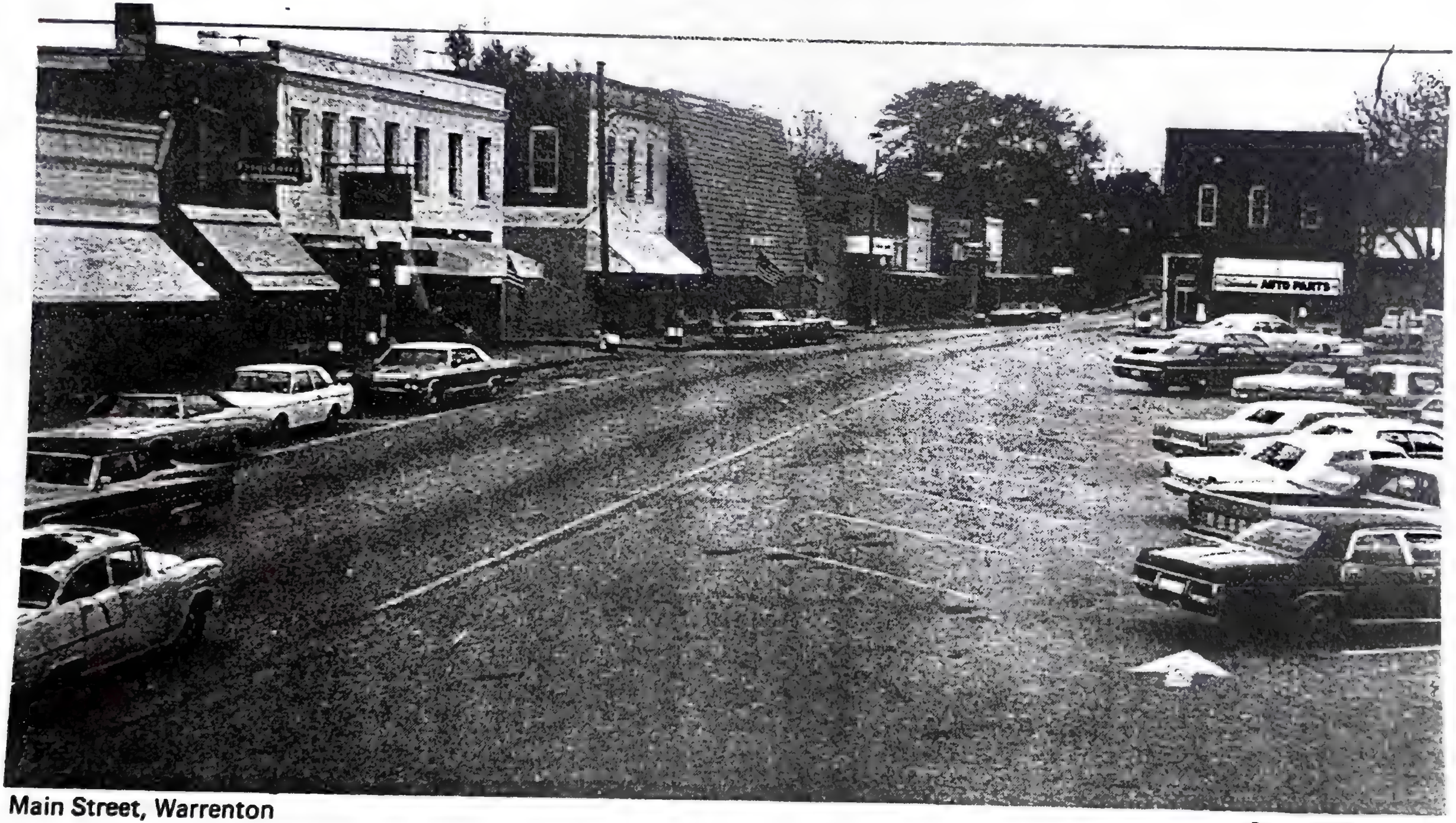


Public Park, Warrenton, 1907

Main Street, Warrenton

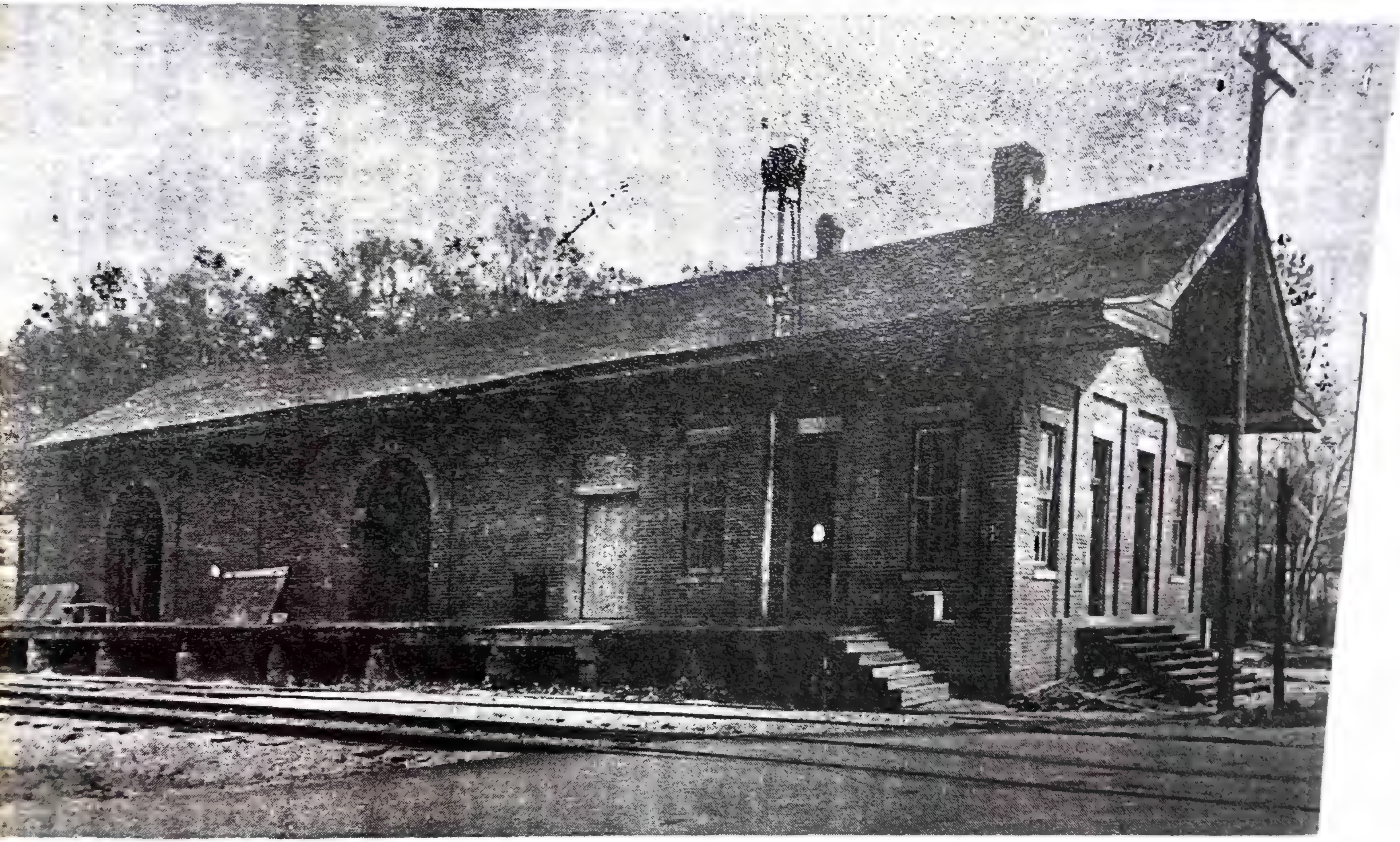
Confederate Monument, Warrenton

Photo: E. H. Hightower



Main Street, Warrenton

Photo: E. H. Hightower



Depot, Warrenton

Photo: E. H. Hightower

way, but was accomplished by burning huge pine logs on the surface until a certain amount of granite would shell off. Day labor and pine logs were doubtless cheaper in those days than gunpowder, and dynamite was then unknown.

Mr. Hunter Coleman owns the property today (1930's). The old mill has faithfully done its duty in the past, and been a boon to many generations. It still is doing its duty even to the present generation, for Shoals meal, water ground, is considered superior to that ground by steam or electricity.

For many years the farmers of Warren County have not raised wheat and perhaps it is not generally known that Shoals mill is a wheat mill as well as a corn mill. Since the depression has forced a change in the program of the farmers, wheat is again coming into favor and doubtless Shoals mill will advertise its ability to make flour. The full capacity of water-power has not yet been developed, and it is highly probable that the wheels at Shoals will ultimately be turning for other useful industries.

The people of Shoals had learned to cope with poverty, hard work, and trouble, but the winds of change were to shake some of them from their roots. World War II coupled with better education, good roads, more plentiful jobs with higher salaries, and the mechanical revolution in agriculture, were to call many away from the occupation and customs of their forebears to new and greener pastures.

The physical makeup of the community changed as well. Many dwellings all over the area were torn down. The school was moved. The cotton gin was discontinued, then the grist mill. The river pushed the dam away. The warehouses were moved. The blacksmith shop is no more. The Shoals Methodist Church was dissolved. Services are being held in the church by another denomination. It is in good repair and its physical appearance is an asset to the community. The store has been renovated and though its type of business has changed, it serves many of the needs of citizens nearby. A small automobile repair shop is doing a creditable business.

The population, lifestyle, and farming system have changed. Livestock, grass and timber flourish where once cotton was king. Diesel tractors have replaced mules, herbicides have replaced the hoe, self-propelled combines instead of the grain cradle.

With good roads, one no longer races across the bridge to climb Shoals Hill to the west and Sugar Hill and Jenkins Hill are no longer obstacles to the east. Leaving Shoals, the county line road is no longer the county line.

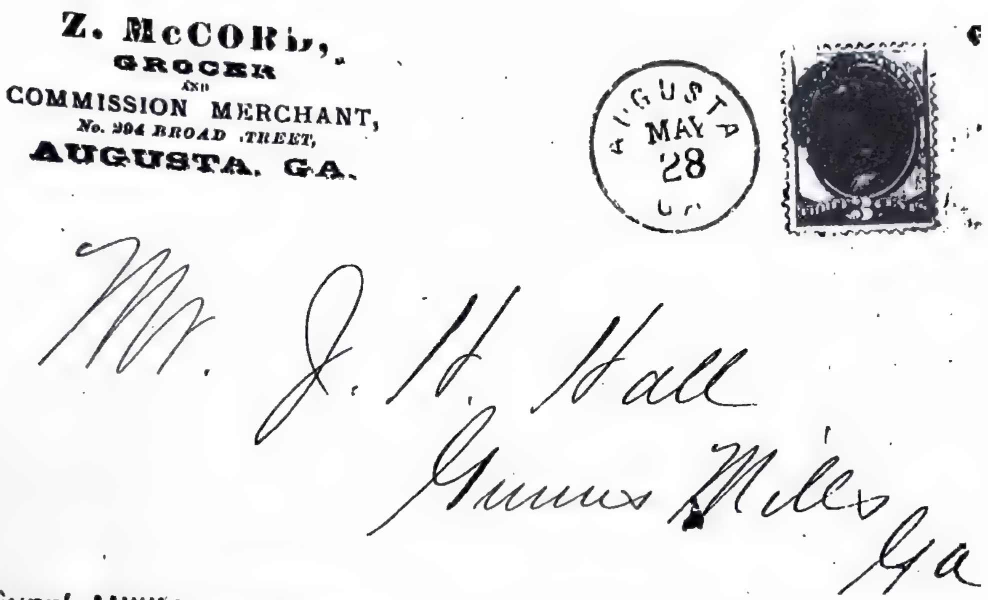
Since its founding, Shoals has risen and fallen several times. It always comes back. Changing times and conditions did away with the old, and changing times and condition will build the new.

Another change is in the offing. Energy is becoming expensive. With millions of tons of water dropping 30 feet, Shoals cannot be ignored. A steel and concrete structure will harness this power and the hillsides will blossom with modern homes as young families gravitate here to staff the hydro-electric complex that will be built.

Fishing and hunting have improved in this 35-year period. Deer and turkey have been added to the abundant native game supply.

WARRENTON

Soon after the county was created, the town of Warrenton was laid out; in

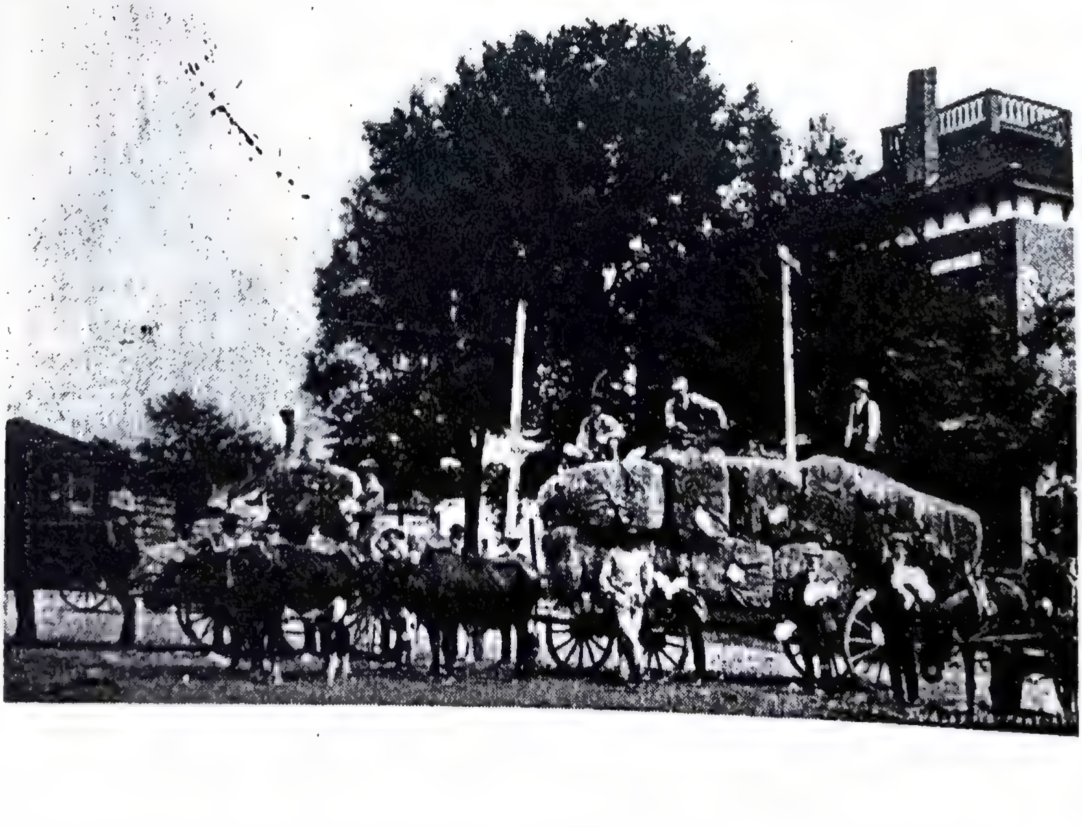

Z. McCORD,
GROCER
AND
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
No. 294 BROAD STREET,
AUGUSTA, GA.

AUGUSTA
MAY
28
GA.

Mr. J. H. Hall
Gunns Mills
Ga

"Gunn's Mill" is now Norwood

COURT HOUSE AND SCENE ON PUBLIC SQUARE, WARRENTON, GA.



1798 it was made the county seat.

On page 175 of Marbury and Crawford Digest of lands in Georgia, published in 1802, is "An Act to make permanent the seat for public buildings for Warren County."

> The permanent seat for court house and jail declared to be on a lot or parcel of land whereon Sterling Gardner now resides, which was pointed out and agreed upon by the late Commissioners appointed for that purpose. Provided Sterling Gardner will, within three months after the passing of this act, execute and deliver a deed in fee simple for seven acres to be conveyed to the commissioners so as to carry into full effect a contract heretofore made between the commissioners and said Sterling Gardner. These commissioners to be commissioners of court house and jail also and let the contract to the lowest bidder after giving thirty days notice in three or more public places.
>
> (Signed) Jared Irwin, Governor
>
> concurred, February 27th, 1797.

Following is a copy of the deed:

This Indenture made this eighth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven and twenty-first year of American independence. Between Sterling Gardner of the county of Warren and the State aforesaid of the one part and the Honorable Judge of the Inferior Court of the county and State aforesaid of the other part, witnesseth that the said Sterling Gardner and Polly his wife, have given, granted, conveyed and confirmed and by these presents doth fully, freely, absolutely and entirely give, grant, convey and confirm unto the above said Judge of the Inferior Court and their Successors in office, all that tract or parcel of land situated, lying and being in the county and State aforesaid and near Goldwins Creek, on the road leading to Augusta (to wit) Beginning at a persimmon tree and running from thence to a stake bound by P. Gardner on the south, from thence to a light wood stump bound by said Gardner on the west, from thence to the beginning persimmon bound by said Gardner containing seven acres, the same being to be applied to county purposes (to-wit) the purpose of laying off into lots for erecting public buildings and other purposes. Reserving never the less one choice lot to said Gardner after the public lots are designated and as for me the said Sterling Gardner and Polly his wife our heirs, executors, administrators will, well and truly warrant and forever defend said land and premises, together with all rights, profits and advantages there unto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, against the claim or claims of any persons or persons whatsoever, unto the above said Judges of the Inferior court and their successors in office. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hand and seals this day and year above written.

Sterling Gardner (Seal)
Polly Gardner (Seal)

J. Tucker C. S. C.
Warren County.

Together with free privilege of timber to complete the public buildings and also free and entire privilege of the Spring or Springs on said Gardners land, containing three hundred acres and the most of either to the said seven acres.

Recorded the 10th of April 1797.

Lot No. 4 was selected by Sterling Gardner – afterward sold to Col. Wm. Stith of Mayfield and after his death was sold for taxes at which sale Chappel Heath bought it for $225. Later it became the "Old Eagle Tavern."

The contract for a courthouse and jail was let; while the courthouse was in course of construction, the courts were held in the home of Sterling Gardner, for the early records reveal the fact that on June 6, 1796, court was held in the home of Sterling Gardner. It was held in at Warrenton on July 20, 1796; March 8, 1797; and July 18, 1797. On July 19, 1797, it was held at Sterling Gardner's house and on August 21, 1798, it was held at the courthouse.

The first law suit in the county came in 1908, and was Caswell Hopson vs. George Smith and Mountain Hill. Another suit of the same year was James French vs. Henry Cox. The first will was filed in 1794, by Benjamin Hubert, a copy of which will be found in the office of the ordinary in the courthouse.

The town of Warrenton, incorporated in 1810, is situated on the Macon branch of the Georgia Railroad and is near to Goldens Creek. It is a three and one-half hour ride from Atlanta, a two-hour ride from Macon, and a one and one-half ride from Augusta. It is situated almost in the center of the county and claimed fifteen inhabitants in the 1930's.

In 1908, the following business establishments were located in Warrenton: Thaddeus Phelps and John and Rhosa Howard operated a mercantile business under the firm name of Phelps and Howard; Joseph Landrum-merchant; Chapman, Moore, and Chapman, with Assa Chapman Michel Moore, and Abner Chapman being partners in the firm; Jeremiah Beall was a merchant in the early days of the county; in 1854, Hubert and Culver operated a drug store; Mr. Dol Shivers had a dry goods store; Hudson and Jones operated a dry goods store; Smith and Shields handled dry goods and groceries (later the Citizens Bank located there); Dickerson sold dry goods and groceries (later Evans Pharmacy located there); Dickerson was also a silversmith. John Jennings sold groceries and whiskey (Georgia Power Company later located there). Jennings was killed by a Mr. Whiteside who clerked in his store. Welborn's dry goods store was located in the building where "31" later operated. Swinney's Hotel was located on the second floor where the Masonic Hall is now located. Al Mayes conducted a grocery store where F. R. Lowe later operated a grocery store.

It will be interesting to contrast the record of the business houses of Warrenton forty-five years earlier (approximately 1885 prepared by the late Miss Sallie Hubert). At that time it had six general stores, two millinery stores, several dressmakers rooms, one drug store, two hotels, one restaurant, one carriage shop, two public gins, a blacksmith shop, one grist mill, one livery stable, one meat and fish market, several grocery and provision stores, one furniture store, and a merchant tailor.

At one time (approximately 1870), there were four saloons where whiskey was sold. One stood, where a Texaco station was later operated, next to the Methodist Church. It was run by John Burkhalter; another was located where the Ford Motor Company later operated and was run by Bill Hundley; another stood where the Georgia Power Company later operated and it was run by Doc Ivey; the fourth one was operated by Al Mayes where F. R. Lowe's grocery store was later located. These were legitimate

businesses in that day. In fact, every grocery store sold whiskey and a certain amount of liquor was bought with the family food supply. However, on July 1, 1875, Tilman N. Pool, representative from Warren County to the legislature, offered a bill providing for local option for Warren County. It passed and became a law, and no more whiskey was legally sold in the county. Warren County was the first county in Georgia to pass a prohibition measure. When it went into effect, a grave was dug on the courthouse square and John Barleycorn was buried. A large crowd assembled to witness the obsequies which were elaborate and impressive.

On April 23, 1854, a very destructive fire swept over Warrenton, destroying the courthouse with many valuable papers and documents, also most of the business houses, and many private residences. The courthouse was rebuilt of brick by a Mr. Robb Moreland and was destroyed again by fire in 1908. The present brick courthouse was constructed in 1910.

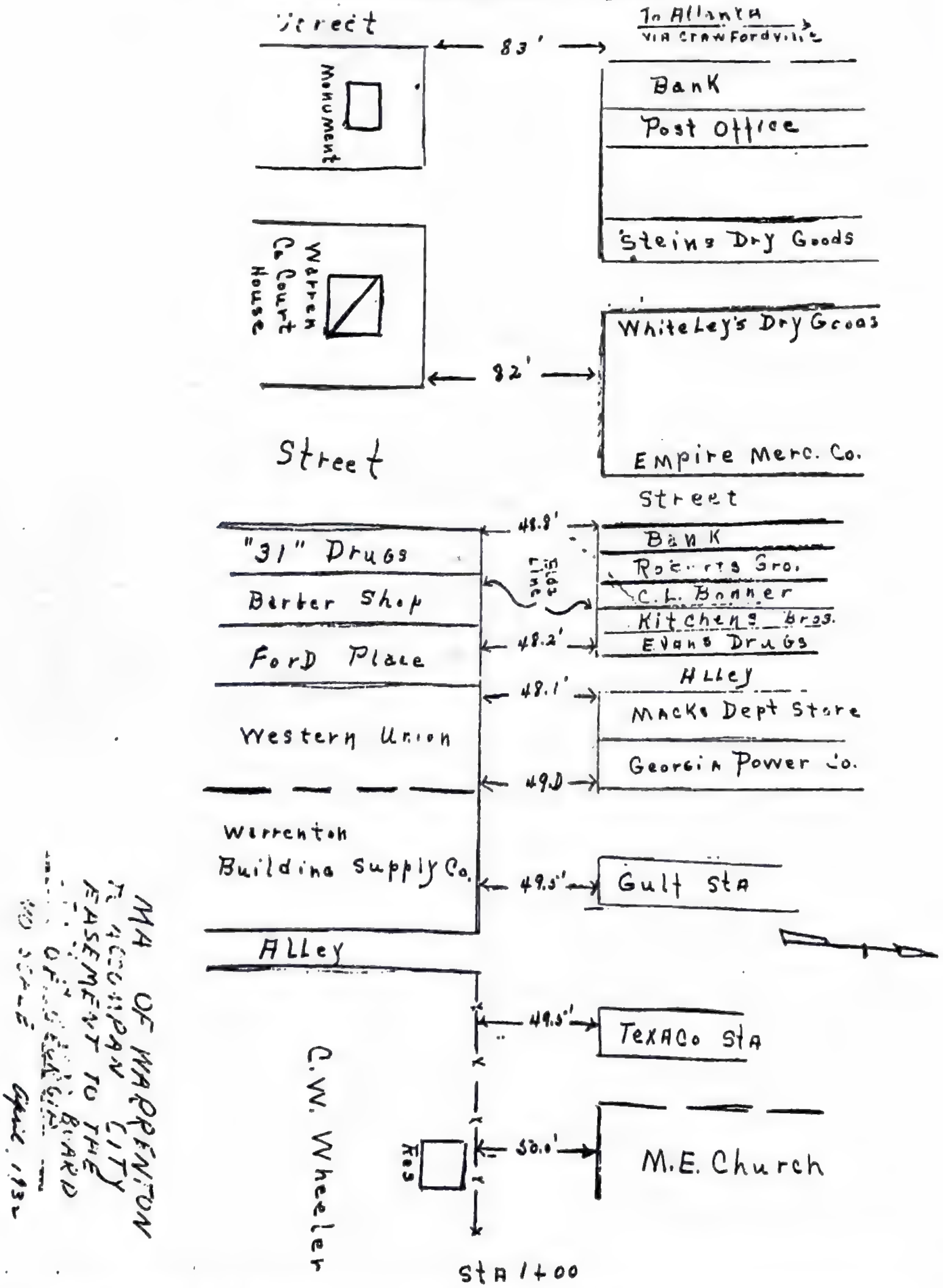
For years, a mule car was operated to transport passengers to Camak to catch the Georgia Railroad train and to bring back arrivals. Warrenton was often humorously referred to as "The Mule Town." A Mr. Glack was the conductor on this road and he lived in Warrenton. The Macon branch had not been built at this time. The track terminated in Warrenton and the station was located where the Methodist Church now stands. (This was discontinued when the Macon branch of the Georgia Railroad was completed). When this road came up to the station, it passed directly in front of the site where the Methodist Church now stands. At that time the church stood just in front of the old cemetery located about 100 yards beyond the present railroad tracks. When the railroad was built, it came so close to the front of the church that the structure was torn down and rebuilt where the present church now stands. It was a wooden structure and was destroyed by fire in 1903. In 1904, it was replaced by the present brick structure.

By an act of the legislature in 1908, the Town of Warrenton was changed to the City of Warrenton. A mayor and council passed its ordinances and saw to it that they were enforced. There was also a marshall who carried out the plans of this body of men. All these were elected by popular vote.

In the 1930's, there were six dry goods stores in Warrenton: J. W. Whiteley, Empire Mercantile Company, C. L. Bonner, Kitchens Bros., and Max Tanenbaum. Each store carried dry goods, ready to wear, and millinery. W. V. Corbin, F. R. Lowe, L. Monroe Cason, Empire Mercantile Company, Roberts Bros., R. L. Burke, and B. H. and P. H. DeBeaugrine had up-to-date grocery stores. There was a Ford Motor Company and a Chevrolet Motor Company, five filling stations, three drug stores (two were owned and operated by Dr. C. H. Evans and one by J. A. Bray), and a Georgia Power Company store where electric supplies were sold. A barber shop was operated by H. D. Howell which had a parlor each for gentlemen and ladies. On the window of the ladies department was the clever lettering "Bob Her Shop." Warrenton also had a telephone exchange, a telegraph office, and an express office. There were also a third class post office, a Methodist and a Baptist church, a community house, one blacksmith shop, one shoe repair shop, two public ginneries, two meat markets, and two railroad stations (the Georgia Rialroad and the Atlanta and Savannah trunk line). One hotel and several boarding houses took care of the floating population. A large brick building housed the Warren County Senior High School, which was both a

state and southern accredited school.

Warrenton Business District – April, 1932



Warrenton, just prior to and during the thirties, experienced vast changes. It had operated its own electric system until 1926, when it was let to Augusta-Aiken Railway and Electric Corporation. Six years later, the city entered into a contract with Georgia Power Company to install and maintain a total of 50 lamps-the beginning of its present system.

The water and sewer systems had progressed from privately operated systems to a city-owned system with deep wells and pumps on Depot and Gibson Streets.

Beautiful trees lined both sides of Main Street, as well as other streets of the town. The water and sewer systems necessitated removal of some. However, after the city deeded Main Street to the State Highway Department in 1932, the trees were removed for paving.

The Community House, which stood on the corner of Academy and W. Gibson Streets, formerly a private residence and later used as a dormitory for the Warrenton Academy, was turned over to the City Federation of Women's Clubs in the late twenties. Some years later, 1949, the city received the Community House from the Women's Clubs and assumed full responsibility for its maintenance. It was aided by a committee from the Women's Clubs and Mrs. J. M. Cooper, faithful custodian. By 1967, it had become a liability to the city and badly in need of repair to the point of its being condemned. After attempts to sell it failed, the city had it demolished.

Other signs of progress in the thirties: additions were made to Sallie Hill Cemetery; Knox Theater opened November 4, 1936; and, the old stone county jail, corner of Norwood and Court Square Streets, was soon to be torn down. It was rebuilt at present site, W. Gibson Street.

In the early forties, Warrenton was very proud of its new Post Office building, which was funded by the Public Building Administration.

The outbreak of World War II had its effects on the community in numerous ways. Many native sons answered the call to duty and served assignments nobly. Of interest is an ordinance found in City Minute Book 1937 when the city, in cooperation with the nation, adopted its own "Blackout Ordinance." After the war, the city, realizing the need of housing for returning veterans and other people, leased land on Meadow Road from J. P. Wilhoit, Sr. and entered into an agreement with the proper governmental agency to obtain prefabricated houses. This housing project was given to the city by the government in 1949. It was later turned over to Mr. Wilhoit. At present, the houses, having served their usefulness, have been replaced by mobile homes.

A third deep well was added to the water system; its location, Davis Street. Much interest was building up for a water treatment plant. This was accomplished October, 1948, on Rocky Comfort Creek, Mayfield Road.

Eastern Hill Project was approved for streets, sidewalks, and water in 1945, thus making available more building lots.

It was a great economic boost to the citizens of Warrenton when Turnbull located on Mayfield Road in 1948. It was followed by Knox-Warrenton in 1950. Several years after Knox-Warrenton closed, Jebco, Inc. began operation. At present, it is one of the prides of the city.

The "Cole Lot," Academy Street, was bought by the city in 1950, for a playground, with civic organizations furnishing the equipment.

A natural gas system for Warrenton was in its infancy in 1950. After much planning, many contracts and negotiations, and an election held to determine the will of the people, the city in 1955, boasted the ownership of its gas system. It expanded two years later when the City of Gibson was

added. Because Atlanta Gas Light Company urgently desired the system and because the mayor and council felt that the citizens would realize more benefits from a larger supplier, it sold the system December 31, 1965, to above named company.

There continued to exist a need for more housing. This condition was somewhat remedied when the city entered into an agreement with the Public Housing Administration to form the City of Warrenton Housing Authority. As a result, five apartment complexes, consisting of 56 apartments, were built. Occupancy still remains in demand.

English Acres subdivision was created in 1955.

Other changes of note were the city signed lease with State Highway Department for state park located just beyond the underpass on Atlanta Highway in 1956; the new By-Pass Road connecting Route 16 from Sparta, Route 80 from Gibson, and Route 16 from Wrens to Augusta Highway was to be known as "Legion Drive;" Knox Theater was granted permission to operate on Sundays in 1959.

At the request of and in order to comply with requirement of the Post Office Department, the city passed an ordinance requiring every owner or resident to place proper street numbers upon front of building. This was contracted and completed in 1961. The city further advanced this project by erecting new reflectorized street name signs in 1972.

It had been the feeling of city and county officials for some years that property values for tax purposes were out-of-line. Before the state required all counties to have revaluation of property, the city and county in 1964 entered into joint agreement with a professional firm to perform this work, thus, updating and equalizing property value.

Efforts were begun September, 1965, to locate a proposed nursing home in Warrenton. The city annexed a tract of land on Norwood Road, made accessible city services, thereby, making it possible for Providence Medical Care Nursing Home to open in 1966. A new, modern-equipped Warren County Health Center also opened in 1966.

City limits were extended for the Industrial Park on Macon Highway in 1962. Garland Knitting Mills was the first industry to locate there. It was followed by Retreaders Tire Supply Co., in 1974. At present, a new building stands there with occupancy undetermined.

Rocky Comfort Creek Watershed, Mayfield Road, was a dream in the early sixties. By 1965, plans for a new water treatment plant, reservoir and distribution system expansion and improvements were initiated. On December 29, 1967, the new pond filled to capacity. The new plant began operation October, 1970.

The following subdivisions were opened for building lots during the sixties: Brown Circle, Highland Park, Brookwood, Pecan Hill, and Golden Estates.

Warrenton afforded the city and county its first supervised recreation program in 1968 when it hired its first part-time director. Plans are now in process for a recreation complex.

Georgia Railroad Company was granted permission by the city to dismantle the overhead railway bridge, Railroad Street, in 1971 – a landmark of many years.

Culpepper subdivision made more building lots available in the seventies. The estimated population of Warrenton, 1974, was 2,025.

BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS IN WARRENTON IN 1974

Abbott's Service Station
Bertha's (Johnson) Restaurant
Bonner's Dry Goods Store
Bouquetier (Florist)
Brown Finance Company
Callaway Flower Shop
M. W. Callaway & Sons (Funeral Director)
Carter Beauty Shop
Carter's Laundermat
Cason Appliance Company
Citizens Bank
Collins Beauty Shop
Forest and Land Services, Inc.
J. Cecil & E. Purnell Davis (Attorneys)
Dawson Mortuary
Dawson Grocery
Dean, Mable (Beauty Shop)
Do Drop Inn (Recreation)
Doug's Quick Stop Food Mart
Florence's Drive In (Restaurant)
Charles Evans Stores, Inc.
Foodland (Supermarket)
Farmers Hardware
Farr Grocery
Finch's Grocery
Firecracker Motel
Fulghum-Carr Drug Company
Garland Knitting Mill of Georgia, Inc.
Garner's Dry Cleaners, Snack Shop, Laundry
Garner's Red and White (Supermarket)
Garner's Garage and Wrecker Service
Garner's Service Station
Georgia Power Company
Georgia Natural Gas
Winston Grier (Amusement Center)
Griswell's Barber Shop
G. L. Haynes Funeral Home
Hodges Carpet Shop
Howell's Barber Shop
Jackson's Building Supplies
Jebco, Inc.
Johnson, B. T. (Taxi Service)
Johnson, Ethel (Store)
Johnson, Samuel (Garage)
Johnson Service Station
Jordan, Willie (Barber Shop)
Charles D. Kitchens (Dentist)

Knox Theater
Langford Insurance Agency
Logan and Dotson Vault Co.
Lurey, Sammie (Dry Goods)
Martha's Fashionaire (Beauty Parlor)
Morgan's Furniture Company
Ed Norris (Grocery and Filling Station)
Court Square (Cafeteria)
Providence Medical-Care Nursing Home
Retreaders Tire Supply Company
Music Box
Ricketson Furniture Store
Ricketson Insurance & Realty Company
Ricketson's Tearoom
Samuels Fabric Shop
Shivers Gin and Fertilizer
Smith Farm Supply, Inc.
Smith Ford, Inc.
Smith Leasing Corporation
Southern Bell Telephone Company
Steine's Department Store
Swint, Bennie (Shoe Shop)
Thigpen & Company, Inc.
Todd's Car Care Center
Todd's Factory Outlet
Tucker's 5 & 10
Tweet's Drive In
Up Town Cafe and Grocery
Veazey, W. T. (Attorney)
Warrenton Auto Parts
Warrenton Beauty Salon
Warrenton Clipper
Warrenton Dry Cleaners
Warrenton T. V. Company
Webb's Garage
Wiley Motor Company
Wilhoit Gas Company
Young's Cafe

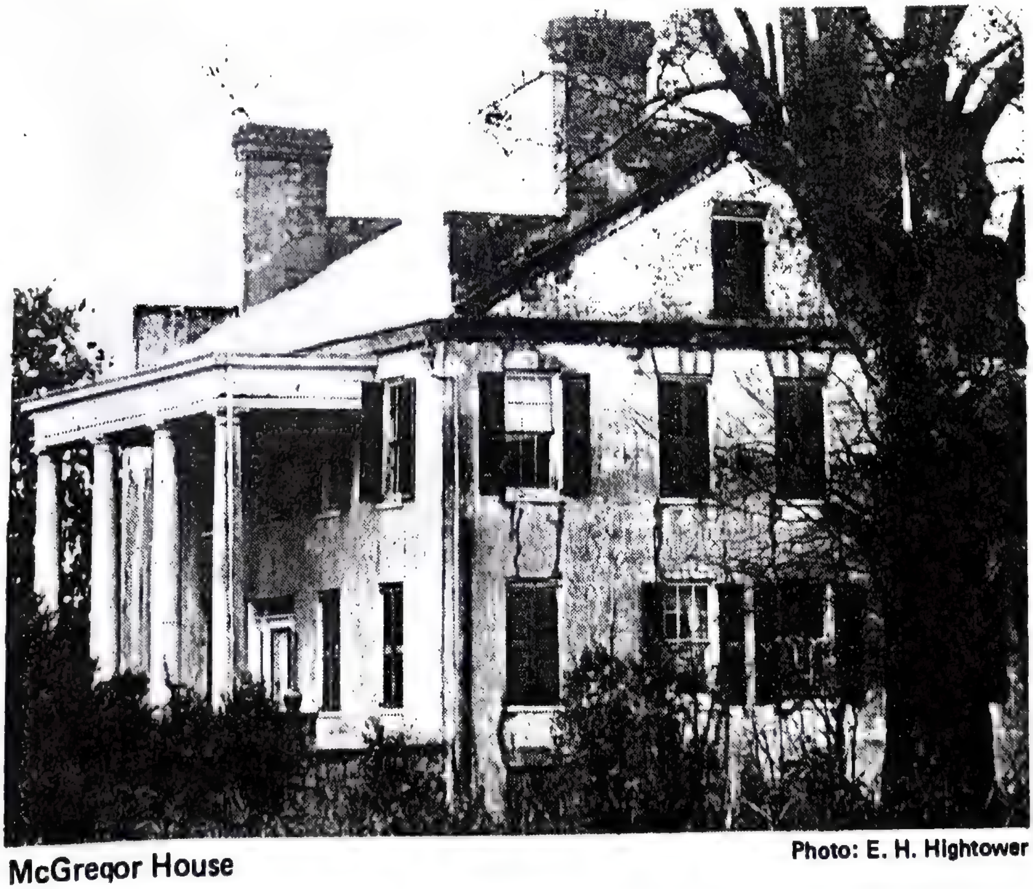
MAYORS AND COUNCILMEN OF WARRENTON

1904 Mayor: C. R. Fitzpatrick
1905 Mayor: F. L. Howell – Councilmen: J. H. Battle, Jno. R. Pate, R. M. Hardaway, C. F. Johnson and John T. Scruggs
1906-07 Mayor: J. H. Battle
1908-09 Mayor: M. L. Felts
1912 Mayor: M. L. Felts – Councilmen: J. H. Robinson, J. B. Anderson, G. R. Maner, E. E. Norris, and J. H. Harper
1913 Mayor: M. L. Felts – Councilmen: J. H. Robinson, J. B. Anderson, G. R. Maner, E. E. Norris and J. H. Harper

1914	Mayor: M. E. Evans – Councilmen: M. L. Felts, J. B. Anderson, G. R. Maner, L. P. Jarnagin and J. H. Harper
1915	Mayor: L. P. Jarnagin – Councilmen: M. L. Felts, J. B. Anderson, W. L. Shurley, and R. C. Wicker.
1916-17	Mayor: M. L. Felts – Councilmen: C. R. Fitzpatrick, W. L. Shurley, J. B. Anderson, R. C. Wicker and J. H. Harper
1918	Mayor: R. C. Wicker – Councilmen: J. H. Harper, C. R. Fitzpatrick, W. L. Shurley, J. B. Anderson and R. F. Fowler.
1919	Mayor: R. W. Ware – Councilmen: E. R. English, R. S. Mathews, J. H. Harper, C. R. Fitzpatrick and E. T. Shurley.
1920	Mayor: J. H. Battle – Councilmen: C. R. Fitzpatrick, Gene English, R. F. Williford, R. F. Fowler and E. E. Lee
1921	Mayor: J. H. Battle – Councilmen: Jno. C. Evans, W. W. DeBeaugrine, Jr., W. V. Corbin, W. F. Wilhoit and R. F. Williford.
1922-24	Mayor: W. W. DeBeaugrine, Jr. – Councilmen: D. S. Kitchens, F. R. Lowe, W. V. Corbin, J. F. Ricketson and R. F. Williford.
1925	Mayor: W. W. DeBeaugrine, Jr. – Councilmen: R. F. Williford, J. P. Wilhoit, D. S. Kitchens, F. L. Ware, and D. O. McBrayer.
1926	Mayor: J. F. Ricketson – Councilmen: D. S. Kitchens, A. W. Daivs, Sr., D. O. McBrayer, R. F. Williford, and F. L. Ware.
1927-28	Mayor: J. F. Ricketson – Councilmen: D. S. Kitchens, A. W. Davis, Sr. D. O. McBrayer, R. F. Williford and W. T. Pilcher .
1929	Mayor: J. F. Ricketson – Councilmen: A. W. Davis Sr., D. S. Kitchens, F. L. Ware, R. F. Williford and W. T. Pilcher.
1930	Mayor: D. S. Kitchens – Councilmen: F. L. Ware, A. W. Davis, Sr. J. F. Ricketson, D. H. Brown, Sr. and J. P. Wilhoit
1931	Mayor: D. S. Kitchens – Councilmen: A. W. Davis, Sr., D. H. Brown, Sr., J. A. Bray, F. L. Ware and J. F. Ricketson.
1932	Mayor: F. L. Ware – Councilmen: Gene English, F. L. Sparks, D. H. Brown, Sr., E. E. Lee and W. T. Pilcher.
1933	Mayor: F. L. Ware – Councilmen: D. H. Brown, Sr., Gene English, E. E. Lee, W. T. Pilcher, F. L. Sparks.
1934	Mayor: F. L. Ware – Councilmen: B. H. DeBeaugrine, Gene English, E. E. Lee, C. L. Pilcher, F. L. Sparks (Resigned 1-3-34) Mayor: John C. Evans – Councilmen: A. B. Carr, B. H. DeBeaugrine, R. Lin Fulghum, H. D. Howell, Sr., C. L. Pilcher (Took office 1-22-34)
1935	Same
1936	Mayor: R. Lin Rulghum – Councilmen: A. B. Carr, H. D. Howell, Sr., Paul T. Jones, J. H. Truitt
1937	Same
1938	Mayor: A. B. Carr – Councilmen: James F. Clary, H. D. Howell, Sr., Paul T. Jones, C. L. Pilcher, J. H. Truitt
1939	Mayor: A. B. Carr – until 1-22-39. Vacancy filled by E. D. Hopson. Same councilmen.
1940	Mayor: E. D. Hopson – Councilmen: James F. Clary, R. H. Hall, W. T. Lockett, W. O. McBrayer, C. L. Pilcher.
1941	Mayor: E. D. Hopson – Councilmen: James F. Clary, C. K. DeBeaugrine, Sr., R. H. Hall, W. T. Lockett, W. O. McBrayer.
1942	Mayor: W. O. McBrayer – Councilmen: James F. Clary, C. K. DeBeaugrine, Sr., R. H. Hall, Wm. Hinesley, E. D. Hopson.

1943	Mayor: W. O. McBrayer until 1-4-44. Vacancy filled by councilman, James F. Clary. Councilmen: R. H. Hall, Wm. Hinesley, E. D. Hopson, C. R. Kitchens, Sr., H. C. Wheeler, Sr., (Replaced Clary).
1944	Mayor: James F. Clary – Councilmen: G. C. Garrett, Sr., R. H. Hall, E. D. Hopson, C. R. Kitchens, Sr., H. C. Wheeler, Sr.
1945	Mayor: James F. Clary – Councilmen: G. C. Garrett, Sr., R. H. Hall, Dewey Jackson C. R. Kitchens, Sr., H. C. Wheeler, Sr.
1946	Mayor: James F. Clary – Councilmen: R. M. Coleman, G. C. Garrett, Sr., Dewey Jackson, C. R. Kitchens, Sr., H. C. Wheeler, Sr.
1947	Mayor: James F. Clary – Councilmen: D. H. Brown, Jr., R. M. Colemen, R. H. Hall, Dewey Jackson, E. D. Ricketson, Sr.
1948-49	Mayor: D. H. Brown, Jr. – Councilmen: James F. Clary, R. M. Coleman, Julian Evans, R. H. Hall, Dewey Jackson.
1950	Mayor: James F. Clary – Councilmen: R. M. Coleman, Julian Evans, R. H. Hall, Dewey Jackson, E. J. Smith.
1951-55	Mayor: James F. Clary – Councilmen: R. M. Coleman, R. H. Hall, Dewey Jackson, C. D. Kitchens, E. J. Smith.
1956-57	Mayor: James F. Clary – Councilmen: R. M. Coleman, R. H. Hall, Alva L. Haywood, Dewey Jackson, E. J. Smith.
1958	Mayor: James F. Clary – Councilmen: R. M. Coleman, Dewey Jackson, C. D. Kitchens, E. J. Smith, Ben Steine. Alva Haywood replaced E. J. Smith 7-7-58.
1959	Mayor: James F. Clary – Councilmen: R. M. Coleman, Alva L. Haywood, Dewey Jackson, C. D. Kitchens, Ben Steine.
1960-61	Mayor: James F. Clary – Councilmen: R. M. Coleman, Alva L. Haywood, C. D. Kitchens, E. D. Ricketson, Jr., Ben Steine.
1962-69	Mayor: Wirt Wilhoit – Councilmen: D. H. Brown, Jr. Julian H. Hinesley, E. D. Ricketson, Jr., J. A. Thrift, Jr., H. C. Wheeler, Jr.
1970	Mayor: Wirt Wilhoit – Councilmen: D. H. Brown, Jr. L. S. McElveen, E. D. Ricketson, Jr., J. A. Thrift, Jr., H. C. Wheeler, Jr.
1971	Mayor: W. T. Pilcher – Councilmen same.
1972	Mayor: M. W. Callaway, Sr. – Councilmen: D. H. Brown, Jr., Terry M. Johnson, W. T. Pilcher, J. A. Thrift, Jr., H. C. Wheeler, Jr.
1974	Same until 6-74. D. H. Brown, Jr., deceased, replaced by S. D. Pearson, Jr.

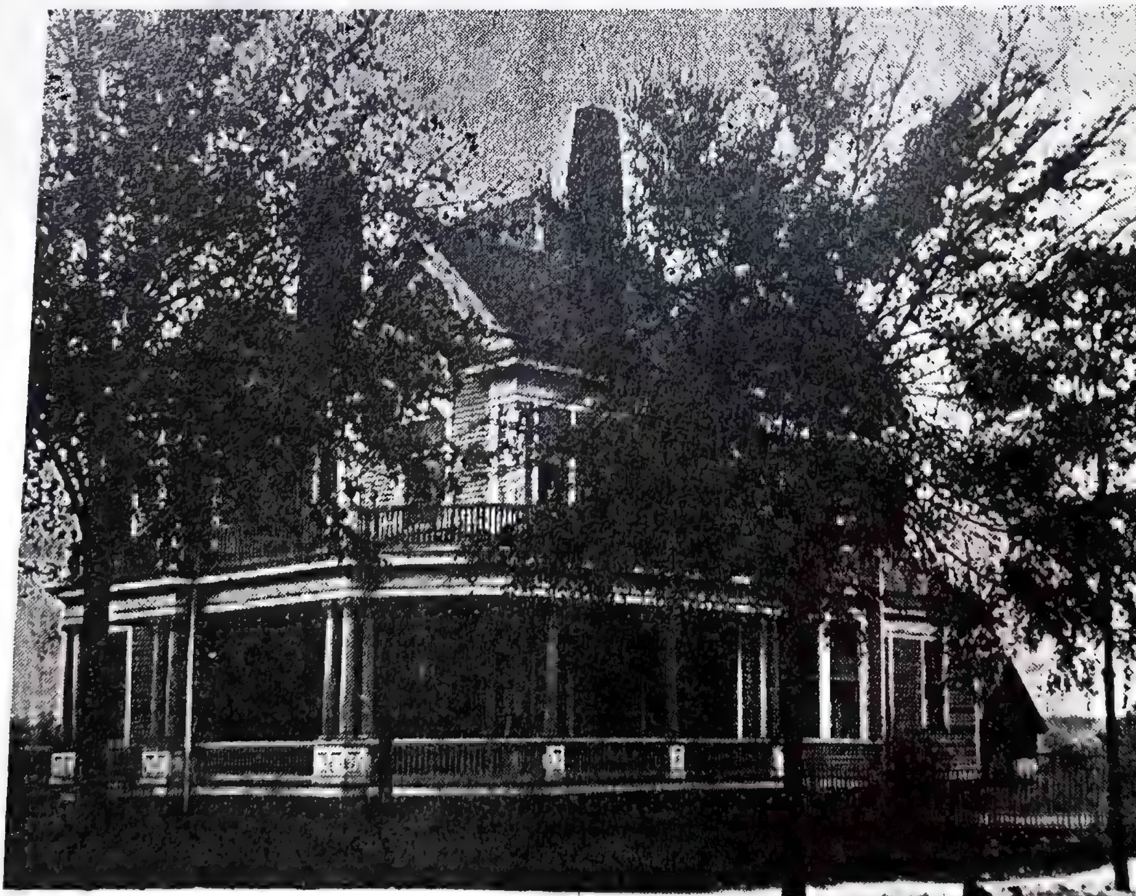
Community House, Warrenton



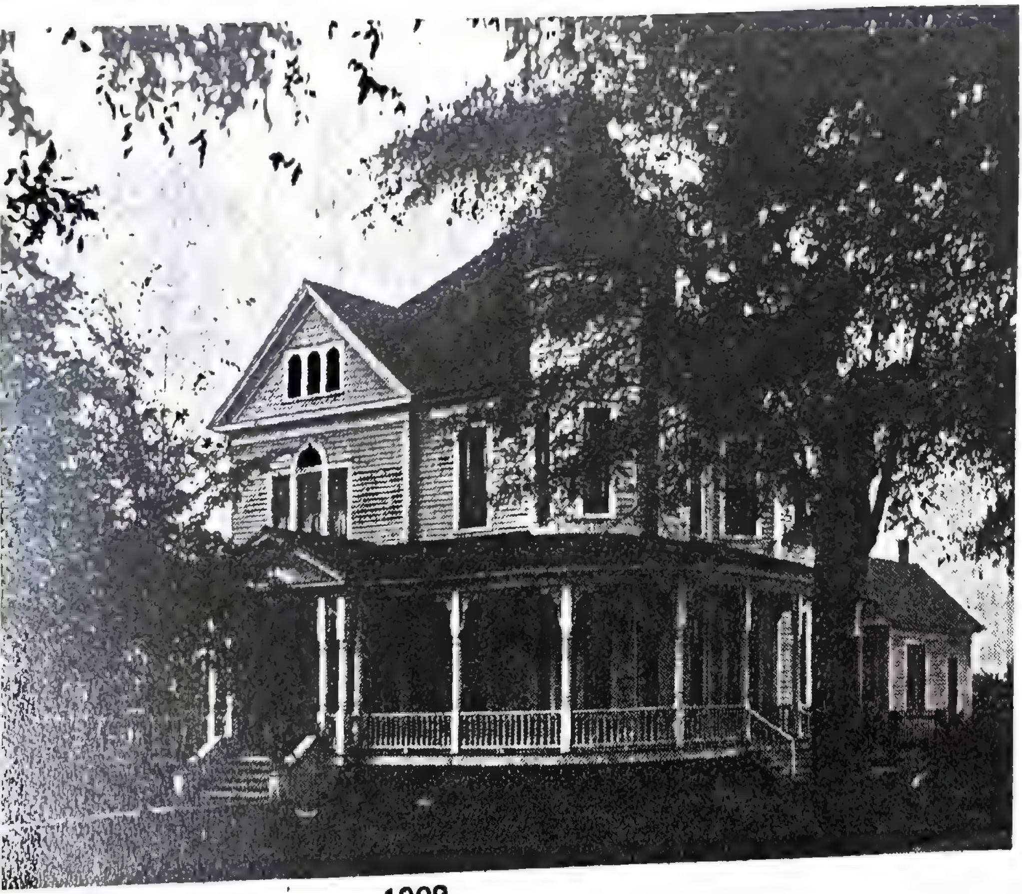
McGregor House

Photo: E. H. Hightower

Jacob Burkhalter House Photo: E. H. Hightower
Oldest house in Warrenton -- now owned by Mr. Howard Kitchens and Miss Mabel Kitchens.



Fitzpatrick House – 1908



Davis House — Warrenton, 1908

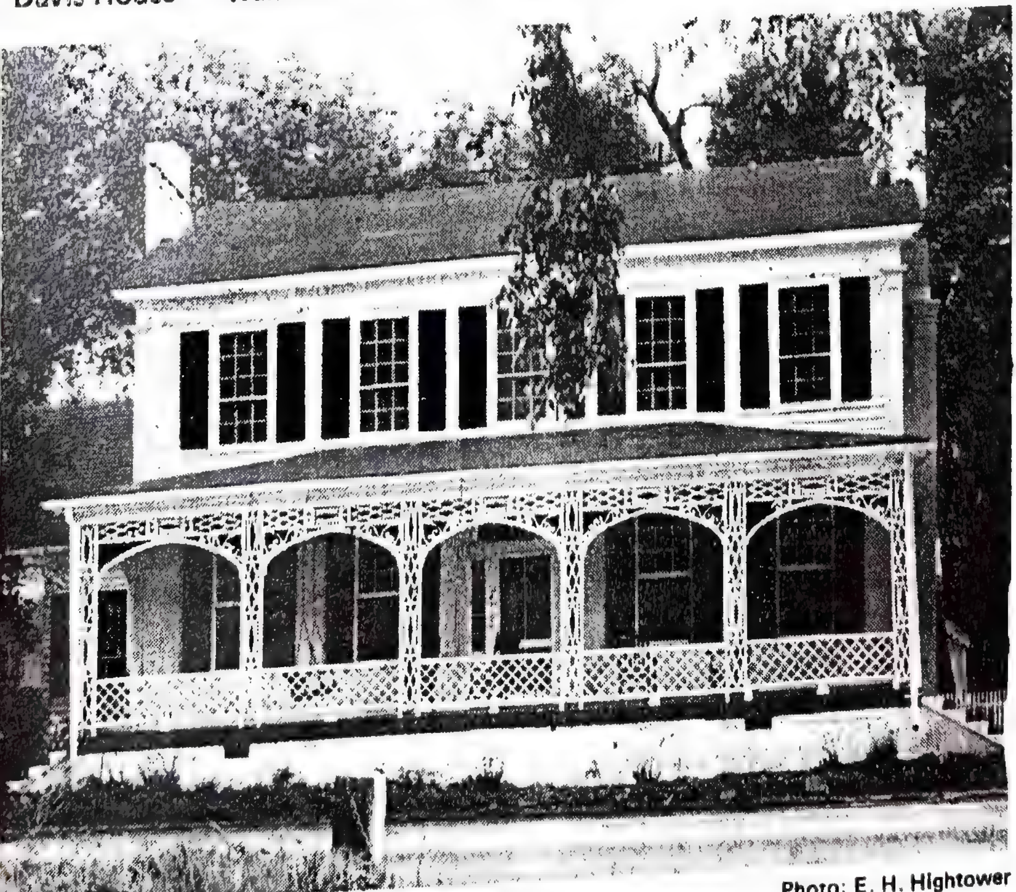


Photo: E. H. Hightower

Wheeler House — Warrenton

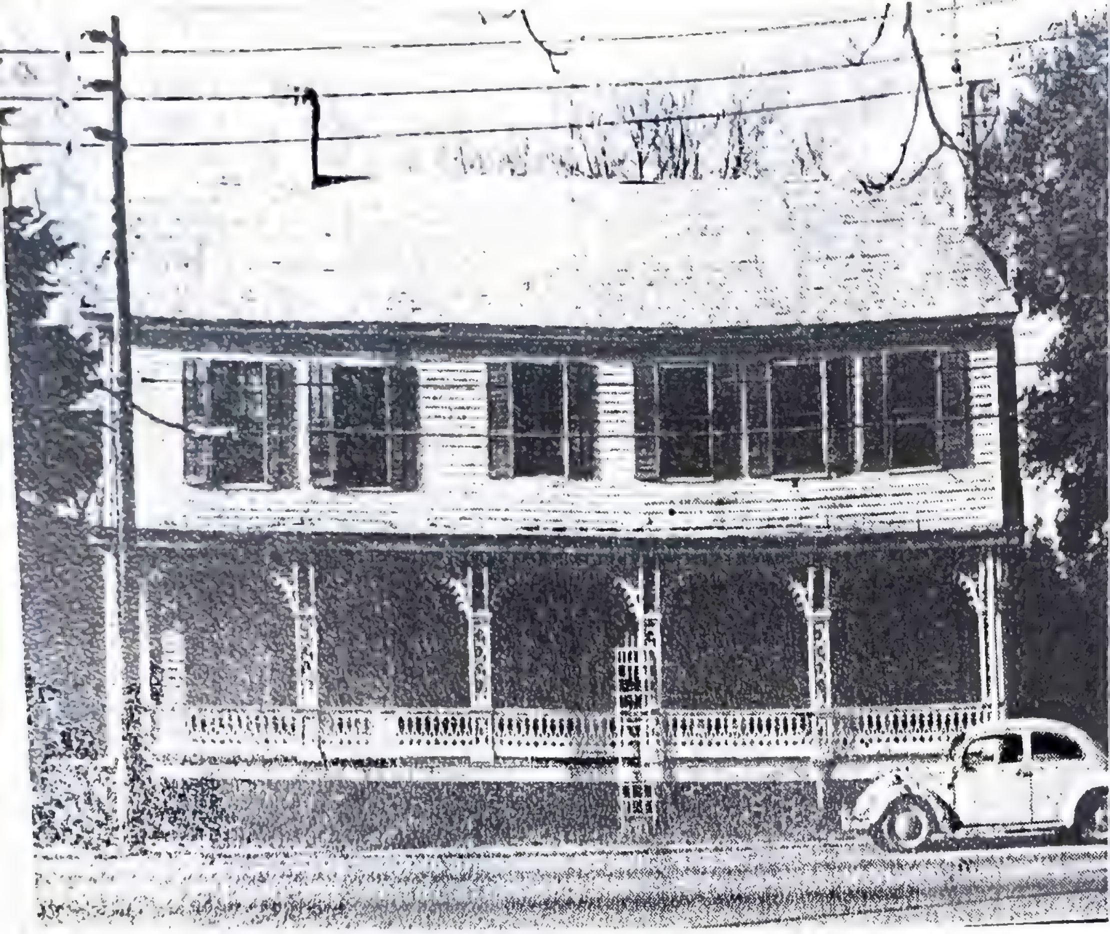
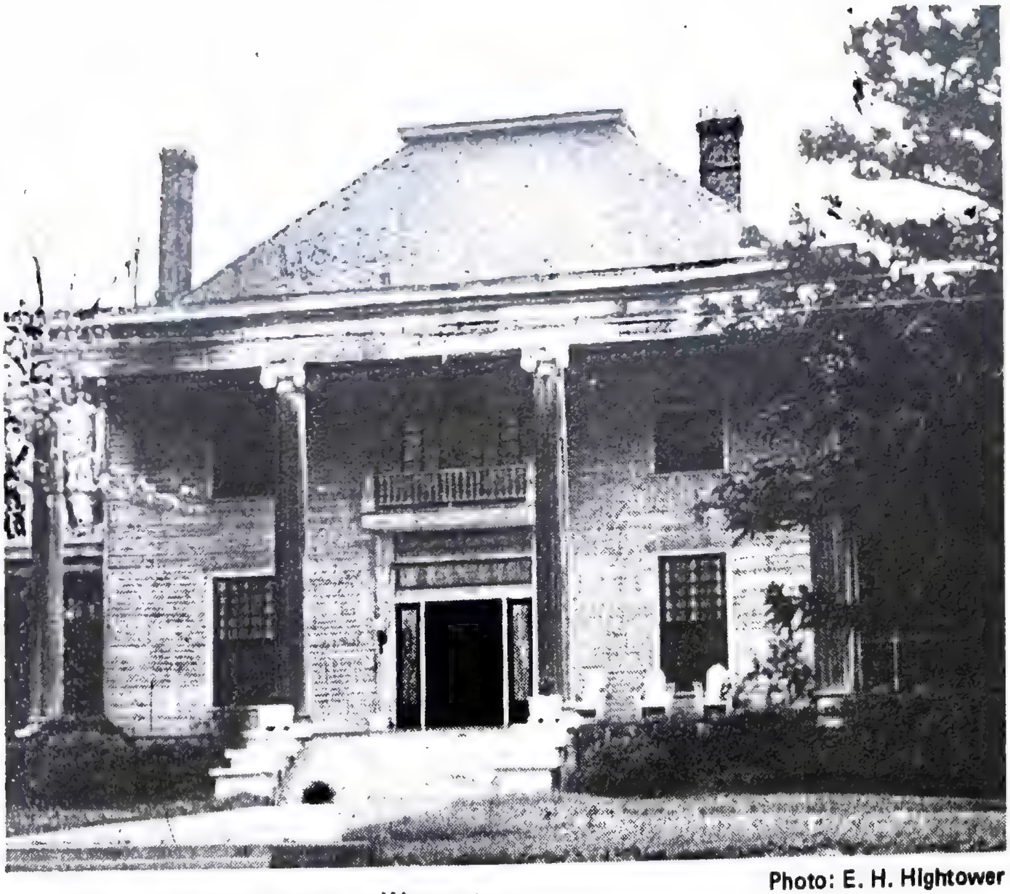


Photo: E. H. Hightower

Mary Hall Evans Home — Warrenton



Mrs. W. L. Shurley Home – Warrenton

Photo: E. H. Hightower

Allen House – Warrenton

Photo: E. H. Hightower

Photo: E. H. Hightower

Marshall Welborn House, now owned by Mr. Emmett Fuller

Mrs. J. P. Wilhoit Home — Warrenton

Photo: E. H. Hightower

CHAPTER 6

Judiciary

INFERIOR COURTS

The Inferior Courts were first provided for by the Constitution of 1789 (ar. 3, sec., 1) and the act of December 23, 1789 (Watkins, p. 396). The five justices were appointed by the General Assembly prior to October 1813 and held office during good behavior or until removal from the county (Watkins, p. 413;Constitution of 1798, art. 3, sec). An amendment to the Constitution provided that on the third Tuesday in October 1813, and every four years thereafter, the justices of the inferior courts should be elected by the poeple for four year terms (Lamar, p. 171). Following an amendment to the constitution completed in 1819 (Lamar, p. 177), an act was passed December 21, 1819 providing that the justices of the inferior court elected on the third Tuesday in October 1821, should hold office until the first Monday in January 1825 and should be elected on the first Monday in January every fourth year thereafter by the electors entitled to vote (Lamar, p. 393). The inferior courts were abolished by the Constitution of 1868, which provided for district judges and enlarged the powers of the ordinaries. Between the adoption of the constitutions of 1777 and 1798 there was a court of ordinary vested in an officer called the register of probates (constitution of 1777, art. LII). The Constitution of 1798 discontinued the office, or court, delegating the powers to the inferior courts (art. 3, sec. 6). The amendment of 1850-1851 relative to ordinaries provided that "The powers of a court of ordinary or register of probates, shall be vested in an ordinary . . . The said ordinary shall be ex officio clerk of said court . . . The ordinary as clerk . . . may issue citations and grant temporary letters of administration, to hold until permanent letters are granted; and said ordinary, as clerk . . . may grant marriage licenses" (Acts 1851/52, p. 49).

WARREN COUNTY
(Created December 19, 1793)

D – Dedimus
E. M. – Executive Minutes
J. I. C. – 1799-1812 – Commission book
S. Jr. – Senate Journal
H. Jr. – House Journal

JUDGES OF THE INFERIOR COURT
(Serving During Good Behavior)

Arthur Fort . . . . Dec. 18, 1793-June 23, 1796 (D)
John Lawson . . . . Dec. 18, 1793-June 23, 1796 (D)
Henry Mitchell . . . . Dec. 18, 1793-June 23, 1796 (D)
William Reily . . . . .Dec. 18, 1793-failed to qualify (D;D)
Levi Pruitt . . . . Dec. 18, 1793-June 23, 1796 (D)
John Baker . . . . .Jan. 8, 1795-declined (Em'm1793-96, pp 211,280)
Aquilla Scott . . . . . . June 25, 1795-June 23, 1796 (E.M. 1793-96, p. 28)
Arthur Fort . . . . June 23, 1796-Feb. 14, 1799 (D)
Henry Mitchell . . . . June 23, 1796-1798 removed (D:E.M.1798-99, p. 22)
Levi Pruitt . . . . June 23, 1796-Feb. 14, 1799 (D)
John Lawson . . . . June 23, 1796-Feb. 14, 1799 (D)
Samuel Alexander . . . . June 23, 1796-Feb. 14, 1799 (D)
William Stith Jr. . . . . July 4, 1798-Feb. 14, 1799 (D)
Samuel Alexander . . . . .Feb. 14, 1799-1799 resigned
(J. E. C. 1799-1812, p. 1 E. M. 1799-1800, p. 60)
Levi Pruitt . . . . Feb. 14, 1799-Nov. 14, 1804 died
(J. I. C. 1799-1812, p. 19; E. M. 1802-05, p. 554)
William Stith Jr. . . . . Feb. 14, 1799-Apr. 8, 1802 resigned
(J. I. C. 1799-1812, p. 19; E. M. 1800-02, p. 468)
Arthur Ford . . . . .Feb. 14, 1799-1804 resigned
(J. E. C. 1799-1812, p. 20; E. M. 1802-05, p. 539)
John Lawson . . . . .Feb. 14, 1799-1801 resigned
(J. I. C. 1799-1812, p. 20; E. M. 1800-01, p. 105)
John Mathews . . . .Dec. 9, 1799-1802 resigned (D; E. M. 1800-02, p. 510)
Henry Candler . . . . . . Jan. 21, 1801-1808 resigned (D; S.Jr. 1808, p. 70)
John Torrence . . . . Apr. 28, 1802-June 16, 1802-1811 resigned
(D; E. M. 1811-12, p. 74) (E. M. (1800-02, p. 469)
Joeday Newsom .Nov. 29, 1804-1810 resigned
(J. E. C. 1799-1812, p. 112,; E. M. 1809-10, p. 272)
George Hargraves . . . Dec. R, 1804-05 resigned (D; E. M. 1805-06, p. 187)
Archelaus Flewellin . . . . .Dec. 13, 1805-Oct. 22, 1813
(J. E. C. 1799-1812, p. 128)
Isaac Ball . . . . .Dec. 19, 1808-1812 resigned (D; S. Jr. 1812, p. 68)
Turner Persons . . .Dec. 5, 1809-Oct. 22, 1813 (J. E. C. 1799-1812, p. 191)
E. Hurt 1809
David Neal . . . . .Nov. 27, 1810 declined
(J. E. C. 1799-1812, p. 205; E. M. 1811-12, p. 74)
Jeremiah Butt . . . . March 27, 1811-Dec. 5, 1811-Oct. 22, 1813
(D; J.E. C. 1799-1812, p. 233)
Hamilton Goss . . . . March 27, 1811-Dec. 3, 1811-1813 resigned
(D; J. E. C. 1799-1812, p. 236; E. M. 1812-14, p. 155)
Solomon Thompson Dec. 8, 1812-Oct. 22, 1813 (J. I. C. 1799-1812, p. 265)
Dennis Lawrence Ryan . . . . March 8, 1813-Oct. 22, 1813 (D)

FOUR YEAR TERMS

Archelaus Flewellin . . . . .Oct. 22,1813-Nov. 1, 1817
Jeremiah Butt . . . . Oct. 22, 1813-Nov. 1, 1817

Solomon Thompson	Oct. 22, 1813-1816 resigned
Dennis Lawrence Ryan	Oct. 22, 1813-1816 resigned
George Granberry	Oct. 22, 1813-Nov. 1, 1817
Robert Walton	Apr. 2, 1816-Nov. 1, 1817
George W. Hardwich	June 21, 1816-Nov. 1, 1817
Robert Walker	1816.
George W. Hardwich	Nov. 1, 1817-1819 resigned
Archelaus Flewellin	Nov. 1, 1817-1820.
Amos Travis	Nov. 1, 1817-1821 resigned
Francis Beall	Nov. 1, 1817-1820 resigned
Hardy Pitts	Nov. 1, 1817-Oct. 26, 1821
Robert R. Reid	1818
Robert Augustis Beall	Feb. 25, 1819-1821 resigned
John M. Dooley	1819.
Hardin Pruitt	Feb. 21, 1820-Oct. 26, 1821
John Butt	June 16, 1820-Oct. 26, 1821
Peyton Baker	Jan. 15, 1821-Oct. 26, 1821
Thomas Neal	June 9, 1821-Oct. 26, 1821
Archelaus Flewellin	Oct. 26, 1821-1823 died
Hardy Pitts	Oct. 26, 1821-1824 resigned
Robert Lazenby	Oct. 26, 1821-Jan. 11, 1825
John Butt	Oct. 26, 1821-1823 resigned
Henry Hight	Feb. 18, 1822-Jan. 11, 1825
Arthur Muncrief	July 8, 1823-Jan. 11, 1825
William Hurt	Oct. 9, 1823-Jan. 11, 1825
Quintius L. C. Franklin	Oct. 11, 1824-Jan. 11, 1825
James Gray	Jan. 11, 1825-1828 died
Quintius L. C. Franklin	Jan. 11, 1825-1827 resigned
Hardy Pitts	Jan. 11, 1825-Jan. 9, 1829
William Hurt	Jan. 11-1825-1825 resigned
Robert Lazenby	Jan. 11, 1825-1828
William Hill	Nov. 16, 1825-Jan. 9, 1829
Jesse D. Green	Mch12, 1825-Jan. 1829
George W. C. Shivers	Jan. 9, 1828-Jan. 9, 1829
Thomas Neal	Feb. 18, 1828-Jan. 9, 1829
Robert Lazenby	Jan. 9, 1829-1832 resigned
Thomas Neal	Jan. 10, 1829-Jan. 15, 1833
Quintius L. C. Franklin	Jan. 9, 1829-Jan. 15, 1833
Aaron W. Grier	Jan. 9, 1829-Jan. 15, 1833
Thomas Dawson	Jan. 9, 1829-1831
William H. Crawford	1830
John G. Winter	Jan. 6, 1831-Jan. 15, 1833
Jethro Darden	Jan. 1, 1832-Jan. 15, 1833
William Sells	Jan. 15, 1833-1834
Jethro Darden	Jan. 1, 1832-Jan. 15, 1833
William Sells	Jan. 15, 1833-Jan. 1837
Thomas Neal	Jan. 15, 1833-Jan. 5, 1837
John G. Winter	Jan. 15, 1832-1834
Quintius L. C. Franklin	Jan. 15, 1833-Jan. 5, 1837
Curtis Lowe	Sept. 3, 1834-Jan. 5, 1837
Garnet Andrews	1834
William H. Blount	Sept. 3, 1834-Jan. 5, 1837

Jethro Darden . . . . .Jan. 5, 1837-Jan. 3, 1841
Curtis Lowe . . . . .Jan. 5, 1837-Jan. 4, 1841
Micajah Rogers . . . . Jan. 5, 1837-1840
Quintius L. C. Franklin . . . . Jan. 5, 1837-1839
William H. Blount .Jan. 6, 1837-Jan. 4, 1841
Adam Jones . . . . .June 10, 1839-Jan. 4, 1841
Joseph Leonard . . . . Jan. 10, 1840-Jan. 4, 1841
Thomas L. Latimer . . . . Jan. 4, 1841-Jan. 15, 1845
John Harris . . . . Jan. 4, 1841-Jan. 15, 1845
Jethro Darden . . . . Jan. 4, 1841-1842
Adam Jones . . . . Jan. 4, 1841-Jan. 15, 1845
William Jones . . . . Jan. 4, 1841-1843
Jeremiah Perryman . . . . Apr. 15, 1842-Jan. 15, 1845
Thomas Neal . . . . March 18, 1843-Jan. 15, 1845
Jumus Hillyer
Marshall H. Wellborn . . . . Jan. 15, 1845-Jan. 4, 1849
Thomas Neal . . . . Jan. 15, 1845-Jan. 4, 1849
Adam Jones . . . . Jan. 15, 1845-Jan. 4, 1849
Thomas L. Latimer . . . . Jan. 15, 1845-1847
John Harris . . . . Jan. 15, 1845-1847
Nathan C. Sayre 1846
Thomas F. Persons . . . . .March 12, 1847-Jan. 4, 1849
Jesse M. Roberts . . . . Apr. 7, 1847-Jan. 4, 1849
Marshall H. Wellborn . . . . .Jan. 4, 1849-Jan. 8, 1853
Jesse M. Roberts . . . . Jan. 4, 1849-1851
George W. Dickson . . . . Jan. 4, 1849-1850
Drury W. Rogers . . . . .Jan. 4, 1849-Jan. 8, 1853
Adam Jones . . . . Jan. 4, 1849-1850
Madison Derrel Cody . . . . .Feb. 26, 1850-Jan. 8, 1853
Eli H. Baxter 1850
William H. Edwards . . . . .Dec. 17, 1850-Jan. 8, 1853
James Pilcher . . . . .May 17, 1851-Jan. 8, 1853
Madison Derrel Cody . . . . Jan. 8, 1853-1856
Robert K. Moreland . . . . Jan. 8, 1853-1856
Shadrach Bradshaw . . . . Jan. 8, 1853-1856
William B. Hundley . . . . Jan. 8, 1853-1856
Drury W. Rogers . . . . Jan. 8, 1853-1856
James McCason . . . . Jan. 11, 1856-Feb. 12, 1857
Thomas J. Wheeler . . . . Jan. 11, 1856-Feb. 12, 1857
W. Rhodes Story . . . . Jan. 11, 1856-Feb. 12, 1857
Mathew Shields . . . . Jan. 11, 1856-Feb. 12, 1857
Marshall H. Wellborn . . . . Jan. 11, 1856-Feb. 12, 1857
Marshall H. Wellborn . . . . Feb. 12, 1857-Jan. 10, 1861
Matthew Shields . . . . Feb. 12, 1857-1858
James McCason . . . . Feb. 12, 1857-1859
Thomas J. Wheeler . . . . Feb. 12, 1857-Jan. 10, 1861
William R. Story . . . . Feb. 12, 1857-Jan. 10, 1861
(Strong)
William H. Edwards . . . . July 17, 1858-Jan. 10, 1861
Joel Hall . . . . .Feb. 9, 1859-Jan. 10, 1861
Marshall H. Wellborn . . . . Jan. 10, 1861-Jan. 23, 1865
Madison Derrel Cody . . . . Jan. 10, 1861-1861

James A. Shivers	Jan. 10, 1861-1861
H. H. Fitzpatrick	Jan. 10, 1861-1861
R. R. Beck	Jan. 10, 1861-Jan. 23, 1965
Matthew Shields	May 24, 1861-Jan. 23, 1865
William W. Anderson	Aug. 9, 1861-1863
Thomas J. Pilcher	Aug. 9, 1861-Jan. 23, 1865
H. H. Fitzpatrick	July 25, 1863-Jan. 23, 1864
Marshall H. Wellborn	Jan. 23, 1864
H. H. Fitzpatrick	Jan. 23, 1864-May 1866
Thomas J. Pilcher	Jan. 23, 1865-
J. H. Fawcet	Jan. 23, 1865
W. A. Ricketson	May 12, 1866-1868
A. W. Battle	May 12, 1866-1868

JUDGES

JUSTICES INFERIOR COURT
Middle District

1811	Isaac Hall, (J. I. C.)
1809	E. Hurt, (J. I. C.)
1813	Jeremiah Butt, (J. E. C.)
1816	Robert Walker
1817	George W. Hardwick, (J. I. C.)
1818	Robert R. Reid, (J. I. C.)
1819	John M. Dooley, (one of the Judges)
1819	John H. Montgomery, (one of the Judges)
1819	Hardy Pitts, (J. I. C.)
1820	John Butt, (J. I. C.)
1820	Amos Travis, (J. I. C.)

Northern Circuit

1830	William H. Crawfrod
1834	Garnett Andrews
1842	Junius Hillyer
1846	Nathan C. Sayre
1845	Jeremiah Perryman, (J. I. C.)
1848	M. H. Welborne, (J, I. C.)
1848	J. M. Roberts, (J. I. C.)
1848	Adam Jones, (J, I. C.)
1850	Eli H. Baxter, (J. I. C.)
1850	Drury Rogers, (J. I. C.)
1850	M. D. Cody, (J. I. C.)
1850	William H. Edwards, (J. I. C.)
1852	James Pilcher, (J. I. C.)
1853	R. K. Moreland, (J. I. C.)
1853	W. B. Hundley, (J. I. C.)
1853	S. Bradshaw, (J. I. C.)
1856	M. Shields, (J. I. C.)
1856	W. R. Story (J. I. C.)

1856 . . . .
1856 . . . . J. M. C. Cason (J. I. C.)
1859 . . . . .T. J. Wheeler (J. I. C.)
1861 . . . . Joel Hall, (J. I. C.)
1861 . . . . James A. Shivers, (J. I. C.)
1861 . . . . .H. R. Beck, (J. I. C.)
1862 . . . . H. H. Fitzpatrick, (J. I. C.)
1862 . . . . W. W. Anderson, (J. I. C.)
1866 . . . . .Thomas J. Pilcher, (J. I. C.)
. . . . A. W. Battle, (J. I. C.)

Judges – Superior Court – Warren County

Warren County
Created December 19, 1793

* * * * *

Superior Courts Transfers

Western Circuit	Dec. 19, 1793-Feb. 23, 1796
Middle Circuit	Feb. 23, 1796-Dec. 19, 1818
Northern Circuit	Dec. 19, 1818-Jan. 1, 1911
Toombs Circuit	Jan. 1, 1911-date

(Watkins, p. 525; original act of 1796; Lamar, p. 361; Acts 1910, p. 63)

Western Circuit

William Stith Jr.	Dec. 19, 1793-Feb. 22, 1796
Benjamin Taliaferro	Feb. 22, 1796-Feb. 23, 1796

Middle Circuit

James McNeil	Feb. 10, 1796 declined to serve
William Few Sr.	Mar. 14, 1796-Jan. 24, 1797
	Han. 24, 1797-Jan. 19, 1799
George Walton	Jan. 19, 1799-Nov. 12, 1801
	Nov. 12, 1801-Feb. 2, 1804 died
Benjamin Skrine	Feb. 10, 1804-May 18, 1804
	May 18, 1804-Nov. 22, 1804
	Nov. 22, 1804-Nov. 13, 1807
William Stith Jr.	Nov. 13, 1807-Nov. 23, 1807 died
Augustus Baldwin	Dec. 23, 1807 decline to serve
Robert Walker	Jan. 21, 1808-May 13, 1808
	May 13, 1808-Nov. 12, 1810
	Nov. 12, 1810-Nov. 6, 1813
	Nov. 6, 1813-Nov. 9, 1816
Robert Raymond Reid	Nov. 9, 1816-Nov. 8, 1819

Northern Circuit

The Northern Circuit was created by an act assented to December 19,

1818 and Warren County was placed in the Northern Circuit at that time. By provision of this act the election of the first judge and solicitor for the Northern Circuit was to be by the general assembly of 1819, and the first judge was elected on November 8, 1819.

John Mitchell Dooly . . . . Nov. 8, 1819-Nov. 8, 1822
Nov. 8, 18220Nov. 12, 1825
Nov. 12, 1825-May 26, 1827 died
William Harris Crawford . . . . June 1, 1827-Nov. 10, 1827
Nov. 10, 1827-Nov. 7, 1828
Nov. 7, 1828-Nov. 12, 1831
Nov. 12, 1831-Spet. 15, 1834 died
Garnett Andrews .Sept 18, 1834-Nov. 12, 1834
Nov. 12, 1834-Nov. 13, 1837
Nov. 13, 1837-Nov. 12, 1841
Nov. 12, 1841-Nov. 11, 1845
Nathan C. Sayre . . . . Nov. 11, 1845-Nov. 13, 1849
Eli H. Baxter . . . . .Nov. 13, 1849-Oct. 14, 1853 resigned
William Gibson . . . . Oct. 14, 1853-Nov. 7, 1853
Garnett Andrews . . . . Nov. 7, 1853-Aug. 15, 1855 resigned
Thomas W. Thomas . . . . Aug. 15, 1855-Nov. 6, 1855
James Thomas . . . . Nov. 6, 1855-Jan. 5, 1859 resigned
Thomas W. Thomas . . . . Jan. 5, 1859-Nov. 6, 1859
Nov. 6, 1859-Dec. 14, 1863
Dec. 14, 1863-May 1864 died
William M. Reese . . . . .May 23, 1864-March 9, 1865
March 9, 1865-1868
Garnett Andrews . . (term from Aug. 14, 1868-1870 resigned July 21, 1868)
Oct. 25, 1870-Aug. 14, 1873 died
Edward H. Pottle .Aug. 16, 1873-Jan. 15, 1874
Jan. 15, 1874-Jan. 1, 1877
Jan. 1, 1877-Jan. 1, 1881
Jan. 1, 1881-Jan. 1, 1885
Samuel Lumpkin . . . . .Jan. 1, 1885-Jan. 1, 1889
Jan. 1, 1889-Nov. 11, 1890 resigned

Hamilton McWhorter. . . . . .Nov. 11, 1890-Jan. 1, 1893
Jan. 1, 1893-July 1, 1894 resigned
Seaborn Reese . . . . .July 1, 1894-Oct. 29, 1894
Oct. 29, 1894-Jan. 1, 1897
Jan. 1, 1897-Jan. 1, 1901
Horace M. Holden .Jan. 1, 1901-Jan. 1, 1905
Jan. 1, 1905-Oct. 5, 1907 resigned
Joseph N. Worley .Oct. 5, 1907-Jan. 1, 1909
David Wilson Meadow . . . . .Jan. 1, 1909-Jan. 1, 1911

Toombs Circuit

Benjamin Franklin Walker . . . . .Jan. 1, 1911-Jan. 1, 1913
Jan. 1, 1913-Jan. 1, 1917
Jan. 1, 1917-Jan. 1, 1921
Edmund Thomas Shurley . . . . .Jan. 1, 1921-Jan. 1, 1925

Clinton Joseph Perryman . . . . Jan. 1, 1925-Jan. 1, 1929
Jan. 1, 1929-Jan. 1, 1933
Jan. 1, 1933-Dec. 1956
Earle Norman . . . . Jan. 1, 1957-1965
Robert L. Stevens . . . . Dec. 18, 1864-to date

Solicitor – Generals

A. Pope 1842
Lewis J. Gartrell 1844
– – – Habersham 1847
Samuel Lumpkin 1875
Seaborn Reese 1877
George E. Pierce Jr. 1881
James A. Harley 1884
W. M. Howard 1885
David W. Meadows 1901
Thomas J. Brown 1909
R. C. Norman 1913
M. L. Felts 1921
J. C. Davis 1933
Kenneth E. Goolsby 1960-present

Clerk of Warren Superior Courts

Wyche Goodwin 1795
I. Tucker 1796
Thomas Gibson 1817
John Moore 1836
James Pilcher 1842
John C. Johnson 1834
G. W. Dickson 1850
R. M. Wilder 1858
H. H. Fitzpatrick 1875
Julian C. Evans 1893
C. M. Smith 1907
A. E. Massengale 1915-1948
J. Allen Poole 1948-present

Small Claims Court of Warren County

Georgia Laws 1969, page 337

William Thomas Pilcher, Judge, Warrenton, Ga. . . . . .May 5, 1969-present

Ordinaries

Septimus Weatherby 1794-1811
John Torrence 1811-1825
Zephemiah Franklin 1825-1834
John Butt 1834-1835

Patrick N. Maddox 1835-1851
Adam Jones 1851-1856
Henry R. Cody 1856-1868
Robert W. Hubert 1868-1893
Thomas J. Cumming 1893-1897
Patrick M. Hill 1897-1917
Carlos M. Smith 1917-1933
Julian C. Evans 1933
J. C. Evans 1933-1940
John C. Evans . . . . 1940-1/1/53 resigned
Miss Jewell Johnson 1953-present

Sheriffs

A. M. Parham 1817-1818
A. Rogers 1818-1820
Benj. Williams 1820-1830
Hardy Pitts 1830-1842
Augustus Beall 1842-1844
Thomas Jones 1844-1848
Edward Shurley 1848-1850
Calvin Logue 1850-1856
E. A. Brinkley 1856-1859
William Littleton 1859-1875
T. N. Shurley 1875-1877
S. R. Christie 1877-1879
T. N. Shurley 1879-1891
J. H. Robinson 1891-1903
W. O. Brinkley 1903-1921
G. P. Hogan 1921-1948
T. Louie Johnson 1949-1964
A. Rogers Dye 1965-present

County School Superintendents

Adrian S. Morgan 1877-May 1908
Benjamin H. Ivey . . . . May 1908-July 1911
Robert W. Ware . . . . July 1911-Jan. 1917
Robert V. Swain . . . . Jan. 1917-Oct. 1920
M. J. Bruce . . . . Oct. 1920-Jan. 1929
John H. Harper . . . . Jan. 1929-Apr. 1937
Pierce H. DeBeaugrine . . . . June 1937-Nov. 1959
Mrs. Ruth H. DeBeaugrine (wife) . . . . Nov. 1959-Dec. 1959
George M. Holliman . . . . Dec. 1959-present

The County Officials Serving at Present (1932) are:

Ordinary . . . . C. M. Smith
Clerk of the Court . . . . A. E. Massenglae
Sheriff . . . . G. P. Hogan
Tax Receiver . . . . C. L. Cason

Tax Collector	Paul Abbott
Treasurer	T. S. Lockett
Coroner	R. P. Lowe
Judge Juvenile Court	C. M. Smith
Probation Officer	G. P. Hogan
County Farm Agent	Hoyt McConnell
County School Superintendent	J. H. Harper

Board of Education (1932)

H. F. Norris	Warrenton, Ga.
N. E. McGinty	Norwood, Ga.
J. T. Palmer	Stapleton, Ga.
B. L. Skelley	Mitchell, Ga.
B. L. Reese	Warrenton, Ga.

Tax Assessors (1932)

N. A. Johnson	Warrenton, Ga.
J. L. Reese	Warrenton, Ga.
W. J. Smith	Norwood, Ga.

County Farm Demonstrators

C. V. Shurley	appointed Feb. 16, 1915, terminated Oct. 20, 1917
W. S. Burns	appointed 1917 or 1918 - terminated?
R. R. Petree	appointed in 1919 or 1920 - terminated Dec. 31, 1920
T. Y. Williford	in 1920-1921 report. Terminated?
C. W. Collier	appointed Feb. 20, 1925-terminated Oct. 31, 1926
O. W. Jones	appointed Nov. 1, 1926-terminated 1931
Hoyt McConnell	1932-1940
Walter Myers, Assistant Agent	1939-1940
Asa M. Bennett	1940-1941
C. W. Collier	1942-1943
Paul L. Marshall	1943-1944
S. F. Yelton	1944-present

County Home Demonstration Agent

Ellie Smalley	1932-1933

Senators of Warren County

Following is a list of the Senators representing Warren County in the General Assembly since the formation of the County in December, 1793. This does not include the representatives to the legislature. A list of those will be furnished later. At the time (1794) each county was allowed one Senator:

Henry Mitchell	1794-95-96-97-98
William Stub	1799
John Lawson	1800
Solomon Slatter	1801-1802

Arthur Fort 1802-1803
Solomon Slatter 1803-04-05-06
Elisha Hurt 1807-1808
Shadrack Flewellin 1808
Elisha Hurt 1809
John Hardaway 1810
Joeday Newsome 1811
Elisha Hurt 1812
Joeday Newsome 1813-14-15-16
Dennis L. Ryan 1817
Elisha Hurt 1818
Dennis L. Ryan 1818-19-29-21
Edwin Baker 1822
Henry Lockhart 1823-24
Edwin Baker 1825-26
Arthur Muncrief 1827-28-29-30-31-32-33-34
Thomas Gibson 1835-36
Henry Lockhart 1837
John Harris 1938-39-40-41
James S. Jones 1842
Adam Jones 1843

Under an Act approved December 23, 1843, the State of Georgia was divided into forty-seven senatorial districts. The districts with the counties composing them were designated by the Act (Acts 1843, pages 17-19). Warren and Taliaferro counties were combined and named the twenty-third senatorial district with Warren electing the senator to represent the district one year and Taliaferro the next.

Warren J. Hill 1845
John N. Williamson 1847
Elias Beall 1849
William Moseley 1851

On January 19, 1852, a constitutional amendment was adopted, providing for a return to the former basis of representation, viz., one senator from each county, chosen biennially by the electors thereof. Same to be effective in the year immediately following. (Acts 1851-52, page 48)

Augustus Beall 1853-54-55-56-57-58
M. H. Wellborn 1859-60

In 1859, the state senate contained 132 members, a number which made it almost as large a body as the house of representatives. Governor Brown, in his annual message to the legislature, dated November 3, 1859, recommended a reduction of membership. He said: "It is almost impossible for so large a body to maintain that calm and dignified decorum and to act with that coolness, deliberation and caution, which are indispensable to the proper discharge of the high functions of a wise and grave senate, which when properly organized, is justly looked to as one of the strongest bulwarks of liberty in Republican government." Governor Brown recommended only

33 senatorial districts. However, after discussion it was deemed wise to create 44 districts, allotting three counties to each district. The constitution of the State of Georgia of 1777 gave the General Assembly power to change these districts after each census, provided neither the number of districts, nor the number of senators from each district should be increased. A constitutional amendment, approved in 1918, added seven new districts bringing the total to fifty-one, which is the number at the present time. Warren, Taliaferro and Green were grouped to form the nineteenth senatorial district. Warren furnished:

E. H. Pottle	1863-64-65
Charles S. Dubose	1875-76-77
W. A. Dyer	1881-82
A. S. Morgan	1882-83
T. E. Massengale	1888-89
Charles E. McGregor	1894-95
J. C. Jarnagin	1900-01
Marion L. Felts	1907-08
Charles E. McGregor	1913-14
P. G. Veazey	1919-20
F. B. Ricketson	1925-26
J. C. Evans	1932
Joel Hood Terrell	1937-38
Joel Hood Terrell	1943-44
Crawford Long Pilcher	1949-50
E. Doughty Ricketson	1955-56
W. Tom Veazey	1961-62

Warren County Created December 19, 1793

Representatives to the Legislature

1794-1795	
1796	John Lawson, Robert Abercrombie, John Cobbs
1797	Levi Pruitt, Samuel Alexander
1798	Robert Abercrombie, Samuel Alexander
1799	— —
1799	Levi Pruitt, Robert Abercrombie
1800	Robert Abercrombie, Arthur Fort
1801-02 Ex.	Levi Pruitt, Normley Rose
1802-03 Ex.	Wormley Rose, James Gray
1803-04 Ex.	Samuel Alexander, Wormley Rose
1804	Benjamin Howard, Levi Pruitt (died Nov. 1804)
1805-06 Ex.	Shadrach Flewellin, John Hatcher, Wormely Rose
1806	James Gray, Wormley Rose, John Hatcher
1807-08 Ex.	James Gray, Joeday Newsome, John Hatcher
1808	John Hatcher, Archelaus Flewellin, Joeday Newsome
1809	Jeremiah Bealle, Jeoday Newsome, John Hatcher
1810	James Gray, Joeday Newsome, Jeremiah Beall
1811	James Gray, Edwin Baker, Hardin Pruitt
1812	James Gray, Hardin Pruitt, Edwin Baker
1813	Edwin Baker, Jeremiah Beall, James Gray

1814	Hardin Pruitt, Edwin Baker, Jeremiah Beall
1815	James Gray, George Varner, Edwin Baker
1816	Thomas Williams, James Gray, Dennis L. Ryan
1817	Thomas Williams, Benjamin Sandiford, Edwin Baker
1818	Edwin Baker, Jack S. Davenport, John Lewis
1819	Edwin Baker, Jack S. Davenport, Benjamin Bledsoe
1820-21 Ex.	Benjamin Bledsoe, Edwin Baker, Jack Davenport
1821	Edwin Baker, Benjamin Bledsoe, John Lewis
1822	Grisby E. Thomas, Benjamin Bledsoe, Robert Lazenby
1823	Grisby E. Thomas, Benjamin Bledsoe, Robert Lazenby
1824-25 Ex.	Grisby E. Thomas, Benjamin Bledsoe, Arthur Muncrief
1825	Grisby E. Thomas, Elias Wilson, Arthur Muncrief
1826	Grisby E. Thomas, Benjamin Bledsoe, Arthur Muncrief
1827	Grisby E. Thomas, Elias Wilson, James Gray
1828	Elias Wilson, Adam Jones, Dennis L. Ryan
1829	Dennis L. Ryan, Elias Wilson, James Gray
1830	Dennis L. Ryan, Elias Wilson, Adam Jones
1831	Dennis L. Ryan, Elias Wilson, Adam Jones
1832	Dennis L. Ryan, Elias Wilson, Adam Jones
1833	Adam Jones, John Harris, Samuel Torrence
1834	John Harris, Solomon Wilder, Gray A. Chandler
1835	John Harris, Gray A. Chandler, Solomon Wilder
1836	Q. L. C. Franklin, William H. Blount, M. C. Andrews
1837	Micajah Rogers, Jethro Darden, Q. L. C. Franklin
1838	Curtis Lowe, Jethro Darden, Micajah Rogers
1839	Jethro Darden, Jeremiah Wilcher, William H. Blount
1840	Jethro Darden, William W. Anderson, Reuben May
1841	Reuben May, Jethro Darden, Elias Wilson
1842	William H. Blount, Jethro Darden, Elias Wilson
1843	Jethro Darden, William H. Blount, Elias Wilson
1844	— —
1845	William W. Anderson, Elisha Burson
1847	William W. Anderson, N. C. Bacon
1849-50	Adam Jones, Marshall H. Wellborn
1851-52	Thomas L. Latimer, C. G. Lowe
1853-54	E. H. Pottle, M. D. Cody
1855-56	Wiley Kitchens, Jesse M. Jones
1857	Wiley Kitchens (change of res.), Jesse M. Jones (died '58)
1858	Elias Lazenby, A. M. Jackson
1859-60	William H. Pilcher, Cicero Gibson
1861-62-63 Ex.	Elias Lazenby
1863-64 EX. 64-65 Ex.	T. S. Hendley
1865-66-67	E. H. Pottle
1868 Ex. 69-70	John Neal, S. Gardner (colored; unseated 9-9-68; reseated '70 by Act of Cong. of 12-22-69). T. S. Hendley (Sept. 10, 1868; unseated '70)
	J. Barksdale, O. L. Cloud
1871-72 Adj.	Charles S. DuBose, T. N. Poole
1873-74	M. R. Hall
1875-76	W. H. Pilcher
1877	Robert T. Barksdale
1878-79 Adj.	William A. Dyer
1880-81 Adj.	

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Charles E. McGregor	1894-95
J. C. Jarnagin	1900-01
Marion L. Felts	1907-08
Charles E. McGregor	1913-14
P. G. Veazey	1919-20
F. B. Ricketson	1925-26
J. C. Evans	1932
Joel Hood Terrell	1937-38
Joel Hood Terrell	1943-44
Crawford Long Pilcher	1949-50
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Warren County Created December 19, 1793

Representatives to the Legislature

1794-1795	
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1797	Levi Pruitt, Samuel Alexander
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1799	— —
1799	Levi Pruitt, Robert Abercrombie
1800	Robert Abercrombie, Arthur Fort
1801-02 Ex.	Levi Pruitt, Normley Rose
1802-03 Ex.	Wormley Rose, James Gray
1803-04 Ex.	Samuel Alexander, Wormley Rose
1804	Benjamin Howard, Levi Pruitt (died Nov. 1804)
1805-06 Ex.	Shadrach Flewellin, John Hatcher, Wormely Rose
1806	James Gray, Wormley Rose, John Hatcher
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1811	James Gray, Edwin Baker, Hardin Pruitt
1812	James Gray, Hardin Pruitt, Edwin Baker
1813	Edwin Baker, Jeremiah Beall, James Gray

1814	Hardin Pruitt, Edwin Baker, Jeremiah Beall
1815	James Gray, George Varner, Edwin Baker
1816	Thomas Williams, James Gray, Dennis L. Ryan
1817	Thomas Williams, Benjamin Sandiford, Edwin Baker
1818	Edwin Baker, Jack S. Davenport, John Lewis
1819	Edwin Baker, Jack S. Davenport, Benjamin Bledsoe
1820-21 Ex.	Benjamin Bledsoe, Edwin Baker, Jack Davenport
1821	Edwin Baker, Benjamin Bledsoe, John Lewis
1822	Grisby E. Thomas, Benjamin Bledsoe, Robert Lazenby
1823	Grisby E. Thomas, Benjamin Bledsoe, Robert Lazenby
1824-25 Ex.	Grisby E. Thomas, Benjamin Bledsoe, Arthur Muncrief
1825	Grisby E. Thomas, Elias Wilson, Arthur Muncrief
1826	Grisby E. Thomas, Benjamin Bledsoe, Arthur Muncrief
1827	Grisby E. Thomas, Elias Wilson, James Gray
1828	Elias Wilson, Adam Jones, Dennis L. Ryan
1829	Dennis L. Ryan, Elias Wilson, James Gray
1830	Dennis L. Ryan, Elias Wilson, Adam Jones
1831	Dennis L. Ryan, Elias Wilson, Adam Jones
1832	Dennis L. Ryan, Elias Wilson, Adam Jones
1833	Adam Jones, John Harris, Samuel Torrence
1834	John Harris, Solomon Wilder, Gray A. Chandler
1835	John Harris, Gray A. Chandler, Solomon Wilder
1836	Q. L. C. Franklin, William H. Blount, M. C. Andrews
1837	Micajah Rogers, Jethro Darden, Q. L. C. Franklin
1838	Curtis Lowe, Jethro Darden, Micajah Rogers
1839	Jethro Darden, Jeremiah Wilcher, William H. Blount
1840	Jethro Darden, William W. Anderson, Reuben May
1841	Reuben May, Jethro Darden, Elias Wilson
1842	William H. Blount, Jethro Darden, Elias Wilson
1843	Jethro Darden, William H. Blount, Elias Wilson
1844	— —
1845	William W. Anderson, Elisha Burson
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1849-50	Adam Jones, Marshall H. Wellborn
1851-52	Thomas L. Latimer, C. G. Lowe
1853-54	E. H. Pottle, M. D. Cody
1855-56	Wiley Kitchens, Jesse M. Jones
1857	Wiley Kitchens (change of res.), Jesse M. Jones (died '58)
1858	Elias Lazenby, A. M. Jackson
1859-60	William H. Pilcher, Cicero Gibson
1861-62-63 Ex.	Elias Lazenby
1863-64 EX. 64-65 Ex.	T. S. Hendley
1865-66-67	E. H. Pottle
1868 Ex. 69-70	John Neal, S. Gardner (colored; unseated 9-9-68; reseated '70 by Act of Cong. of 12-22-69). T. S. Hendley (Sept. 10, 1868; unseated '70)
1871-72 Adj.	J. Barksdale, O. L. Cloud
1873-74	Charles S. DuBose, T. N. Poole
1875-76	M. R. Hall
1877	W. H. Pilcher
1878-79 Adj.	Robert T. Barksdale
1880-81 Adj.	William A. Dyer

1882-83 Ex. - 83 Ann. Adj.	Charles E. McGregor
1884-8 5Adj.	M. H. Shurley
1886-87 Adj.	Malachi Norris
1888-89 Adj.	T. J. Veasey
1890-91 Adj.	John H. Hall
1892-93	John H. Hall
1894-95	Freeman R. Pool
1896-97 Adj. -97	William M. Hawes
1898-99	J. C. Jarnagin, M. D.
1900-01	James M. English
1902-03	James M. English
1905-06	E. O. Scruggs
1907-08 Ex.	L. R. Massengale
1909-10	James M. English
1911-12 Ex.-12	T. E. Massengale
1913-14	John S. Hart
1915-15 Ex. 16-17 Ex.	P. G. Veazey
1923-23 Ex.-24	John C. Evans
1925	Judson Pilcher Wilhoit
1927	Judson Pilcher Wilhoit
1929-31 Ex.	Charles Milton Swain
1931	Charles Milton Swain
1933	Charles Milton Swain
1935	Joel Hood Terrell
1937-41	Crawford Long Pilcher
1943-62	Jack Bowdoin Ray
1962	George P. Langford Jr.
1963-68	Bobby W. Johnson

Since 1968 the Representative for Warren County has been elected from a multi-county district. After that date Warren County has not had a sole representative in the General Assembly of Georgia.

Surveyors of Warren County

Etheldred Thomas	Feb. 17, 1794
Etheldred Thomas	Nov. 18, 1795
Etheldred Thomas	Nov. 17, 1797
Etheldred Thomas	Oct. 21, 1799
Etheldred Thomas	Oct. 27, 1801
Etheldred Thomas	Oct. 25, 1803
Etheldred Thomas	Oct. 25, 1805
Etheldred Thomas	Oct. 23, 1807
Etheldred Thomas	Oct. 21, 1809
Benjamin Hurt	Oct. 19, 1811
Benjamin Hurt	Jan. 6, 1814
Benjamin Hurt	Jan. 3, 1816
Lawrence Kitchens	Jan. 8, 1818
Paul McCormick	Jan. 15, 1820
Paul McCormick	Jan. 9, 1822, 1823 resigned
Lawrence Kitchens	Mch. 20, 1823
Lawrence Kitchens	Jan. 8, 1824

Lawrence Kitchens	Jan. 9, 1828, (not qualified; County Officers Commission Book)
Asaph R. V. Hill	March 6, 1828
James Pace	Jan. 8, 1830
John Harris	Jan. 6, 1832
William M. Draper	Jan. 9, 1834
P. B. Monk	Jan. 9, 1836
George W. Collins	Jan. 5, 1837
George W. Collins	Jan. 8, 1838
George W. Collins	Jan. 10, 1840
Jeptha M. Cody	Jan. 20, 1842
Isaac F. Adkins	Jan. 10, 1843
Isaac F. Adkins	Jan. 5, 1844
Isaac F. Adkins	Jan. 9, 1845
Isaac F. Adkins	Jan. 13, 1846
Isaac F. Adkins	Jan. 22, 1848
Isaac F. Adkins	Jan. 10, 1850
Absalom Jackson	Feb. 15, 1851
Rufus Williams	Jan. 17, 1852
Rufus Williams	Jan. 11, 1854
Benjamin F. Roberts	Sept. 11, 1854
Absalom Jackson	March 21, 1855
Absalom Jackson	Jan. 11, 1856
Seaborn Kitchens	Oct. 19, 1857
John S. Johnson	Jan. 13, 1858
John S. Johnson	Jan. 11, 1860
John S. Johnson	Jan. 24, 1862
John S. Johnson	Feb. 16, 1864
John S. Johnson	Jan. 22, 1866
Absalom Jackson	July 30, 1868
John S. Johnson	Feb. 9, 1871
John S. Johnson	Jan. 17, 1873
John S. Johnson	Jan. 28, 1875
John S. Johnson	Jan. 13, 1877
John S. Johnson	Jan. 16, 1879
John S. Johnson	Jan. 10, 1881
John S. Johnson	Jan. 10, 1883
John S. Johnson	Jan. 15, 1885
A. F. Ware	Jan. 8, 1887-1888 removed from County.
John S. Johnson	Aug. 7, 1888
John S. Johnson	Jan. 8, 1889
John S. Johnson	Jan. 12, 1891
William M. Neal	Jan. 7, 1893
William M. Neal	Jan. 8, 1895
William M. Neal	Oct. 16, 1896
William M. Neal	Oct. 21, 1898
William M. Neal	Oct. 17, 1900
William M. Neal	Oct. 15, 1902
William M. Neal	Oct. 17, 1904
William M. Neal	Nov. 1, 1906
William M. Neal	Nov. 3, 1908

William M. Neal	Nov. 5, 1910
William M. Neal	Oct. 14, 1912
William M. Neal	Nov. 30, 1914
William M. Neal	Dec. 4, 1916
William M. Neal	Dec. 9, 1920
William M. Neal	Dec. 1929 (died)
Newton M. Pafford	1939-1944
Dan Crumpton	1965-1968
Larry Rachels	1969-present

Warren County Treasurers

M. T. Rogers	—?—
W. H. Todd	1911
W. R. Long	1915
Citizens Bank	—?—
E. E. Lee	1925
T. S. Lockett	1929-1935 (died 4-26-35)
Carlos Mack Smith, Jr.	June 20, 1935
Jewell Johnson	Oct. 1936-Dec. 31, 1936
Francis Linton Sparks, Sr.	1937-1953
George Garrett	1953-present

Warren County Tax Assessors

1913	G. A. Ray, J. R. Montgomery, N. Gallaher
1920	H. J. Norris, C. A. or C. O. Wheeler (?)
1923	N. A. Johnson, J. L. Reese, W. J. Smith
1924	J. B. Anderson
1936	Odom L. Reese
1943	R. C. Montgomery, Walter J. Smith
1947	C. E. English, Sr.
1950	H. J. Flanders, W. A. Norris
1951	W. L. Hall
1954	Odom L. Reese, Oscar L. Smith
1967	W. R. Duckworth
1973	Lawrence O. Bacon, Albert J. Massey, C. F. Johnson, Jud P. Wilhoit, Jr.
1974	Charles O. Logan, Lewis J. Roberts, Charles Hodges, Richard H. Martin
1975	Herbert May, Jr.

Commissioner of Roads and Revenue

D. E. Johnson	1933-36
John Fleming Ricketson, Sr.	1937-60 (death)
Mrs. John F. Ricketson	Appt. April 6, 1960 (wife)
Joe B. Gunn	May 5, 1960-72
Bobby W. Johnson	1973-present

Coroner of Warren County

J. M. Rabun 1929-31
R. P. Lowe . . . . July 1931-52
Carl B. Mock 1953-60
C. K. DeBeaugrine, Jr. 1961-present

Warren County Health Department (est. 1949)

Public Health Nurses:
Miss Evelyn Fleming (now Mrs. Duncan H. Brown) 1949-51
Mrs. Elsie (C. D.) Kitchens 1951-present

Tax Receiver

C. L. Cason . . . . 1933-Feb. 1, 1952 (death)
Jewell Johnson . . . . Acting Receiver until election called.
Daniel B. Stewart . . . . .April 15, 1952-Feb. 24, 1953 (death)

Tax Collector

Paul Abbott . . . . 1933-March 1953 when the Tax Office of Tax Collector and Tax Receiver was made a Tax Commissioner

Tax Commissioner

Paul Abbott . . . . .March 1953-December 1964 (retired)
Allen S. May 1965-present

CHAPTER 7

Public Services

WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY

The Warren County Library, established in 1938, and located in the Community House in Warrenton, originated as a Works Program Administration Project. The doors were opened to the public on February 16, with Mrs. W. W. Anderson as local librarian. She served for 14 months. Mrs. Bennie Laramore of Norwood was traveling librarian.

On April 4, 1939, Miss Lily Anderson began her duties as librarian and served until July 1, 1966.

In 1957, Mr. J. F. Ricketson, County Commissioner, renovated rooms in the old school building, making the library more attractive and adequate for better service to the public.

The Warren County Public Library has been maintained by three sponsors' Board of Education, City, and the County Commissioner.

September 6, 1966, Mrs. Howard P. Neal, Jr., took over the duties of librarian.

The annual report for 1974 showed 11,028 books for current holdings. The total books circulated in 1974 were 12,100.

WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In 1949, a group of women from the Warrenton PTA requested that John Ricketson, Warren County Commissioner, start a health center for Warren County with a full time Public Health Nurse. Miss Evelyn Fleming, who later became Mrs. Duncan Brown, was Public Health Nurse from 1949-51. Mrs. Elsie (Charles D) Kitchens has filled that position from 1951 to the present time. Mrs. Tommie (Leslie K.) Reynolds was hired as clerk-typist in 1955, a job she still holds.

The first members of the Board of Health were Dr. A. W. Davis, John Ricketson and Pierce DeBeaugrine. The present members are Dr. Charles D. Kitchens, Bobby Johnson (chm.), George Holliman, Allison Cason, and J. A. Thrift, Jr.

The health department was housed in a two-room building at the rear of

the Jud P. Wilhoit residence for several years; later it was moved to the old high school building; and in 1966, the new Warren County Health Center was erected with state, federal and county funds. The cost was approximately $67,000.00, including all equipment. It is as modern as any other health center in the state and a credit to the county.

PROVIDENCE MEDICAL CARE NURSING HOME

The construction on Providence Medical Care Nursing Home was completed in April of 1966. The nursing home had 60 beds. The building contractor was G. E. Schaffer, part owner and the first General Manager of the company. The nursing home was originally owned by Providence Printing and Development Company in Atlanta. However, the parent company has changed to Providence Church Plan, Inc., with headquarters in Macon, Ga.

The second addition of 50 beds was completed in March of 1969 by the original contractor.

The first patient admitted to the nursing home was Mr. William Casper.

The first administrator of the nursing home was Floyd H. Ivey, Jr. The second administrator was Helen C. McMahon. The present administrator is Ellen H. Frost.

At the present time there are 110 patients in the nursing home.

WELFARE

The Warren County Welfare Department was created by the State of Georgia Welfare Act of 1937, to provide Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, and Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The State Department of Welfare Director, upon the recommendation of Mr. J. F. Ricketson, sole Commissioner of Warren County, appointed Mr. C. M. Swain, Mr. A. F. Langford, Mr. S. J. Purvis, Mr. J. F. Gracey, and Mr. J. H. Coleman as members of the Warren County Welfare Board.

The organizational meeting of the County Board elected Mr. C. M. Swain as Chairman of the Board. The County Board appointed Mrs. Sunbeam Hill as Director of the Warren County Welfare Department.

The July, 1937 meeting of the Warren County Board states that the Director presented the following reports:

285 Applications for Old Age Assistance

8 Applications for Aid to the Blind

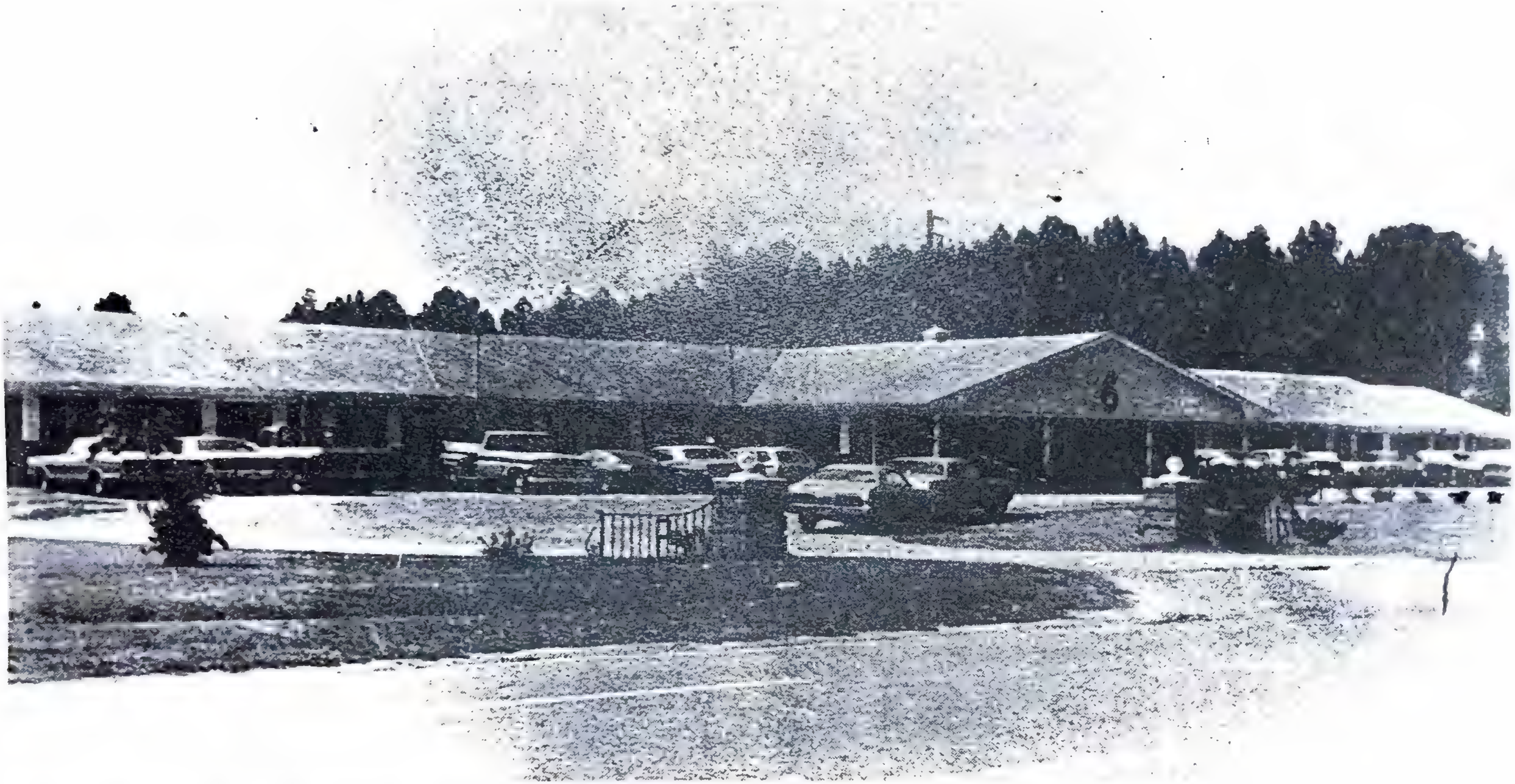
5 Applications for Aid to Families with Dependent Children

In order to clear these applications as quickly as possible, Mrs. Hill was authorized to contact Mr. J. F. Ricketson, County Commissioner, in an effort to secure additional administrative help.

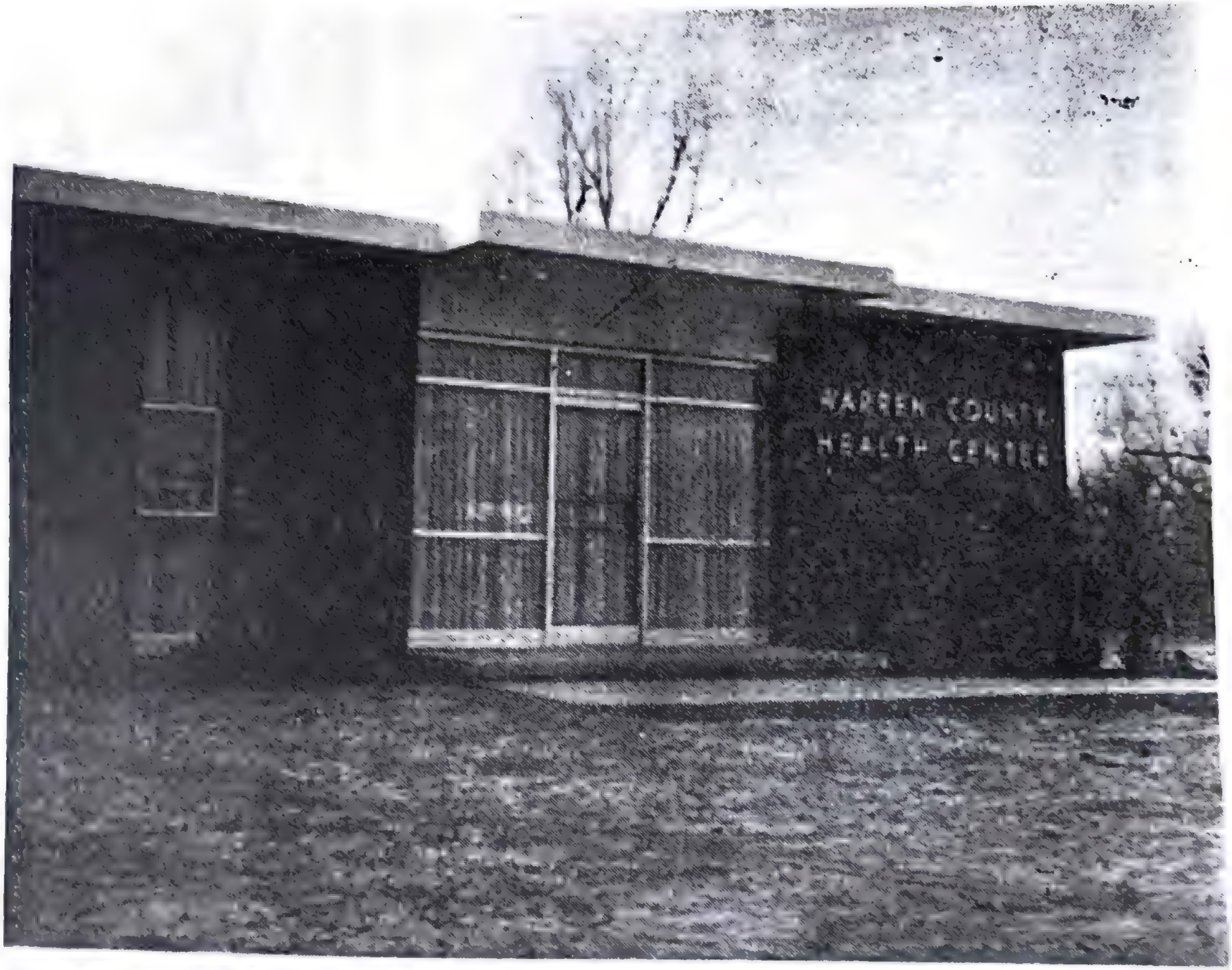
Thirty-seven cases, which had been studied and investigated, were approved by the Board. Checks were received for Old Age Assistance in the amount of $245.50 during July.

Mrs. Hill reported that Mr. J. F. Ricketson had appointed Miss Martha Johnson as a temporary Caseworker and Miss Doris Gunn as a part-time stenographer.

The July, 1947, meeting of the Warren County Board states that the Director presented the following:



Providence Medical Care Nursing Home — Warrenton



Warren County Health Department, Warrenton

306 Public Assistance checks were received for a total of $4610.00. The July, 1957, meeting, the Director presented the following reports:

517 Public Assistance checks received, totaling $25,082.00.

384 Old Age Assistance $16,162.00.

12 Aid to the Blind $516.00.

72 Aid to Dependent Children $6,150.00.

In 1963, the Department name was changed to Warren County Department of Family and Children Services. At the July, 1967, meeting, the Director presented the following reports:

507 Public Assistance checks received, totaling $30,312.00.

333 Aid to the Aged $16,704.00.

6 Aid to the Blind $398.00.

70 Aid to Dependent Children $7,374.00.

98 Aid to the Disabled $5,866.00.

In 1968, the department began the Food Stamp Program in Warren County, which continues to the present.

In 1974, the Social Security Department began administrating the Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled Programs, formerly administrated by the Department of Family and Children Services.

The Director presented the following reports for Dec. 1974.

276 families received Aid fo Families with Dependent Children Totaling $36,293.00.

107 Elderly received Medical Assistance Only, Nursing Home Services.

419 Households and a total of 1558 individuals participated in the Food Stamp Program. There are 199 active Service cases.

360 Individuals received Supplemental Security Income checks, directly from Social Security Administration.

CHAPTER 8

Churches

Long before Warren County was created, men of God were going up and down in the territory proclaiming the gospel of the risen Christ. The hardships of the Revolutionary period and life in the new territory with its attending dangers and struggles made them anxious to live lives worthy of the new-found liberty which they considered a special blessing fresh from the hand of God.

School houses were used as meeting houses on the Sabbath and people traveled miles to hear the sermon. In the summer, services were held in the shade of the large trees or perhaps a brush arbor was erected by the men of the community in which the meeting was held.

Sixteen years before the birth of the county, Little Briar Church was organized. It was the fourth Baptist Church to be organized in the State of Georgia.

Nine years later and still seven years before the county was created, Long Creek Church was organized.

Two years later, five years before the county was created, Methodism in the territory was included in the Richmond Circuit and services were held by Mathew Harris, a circuit rider, whose circuit included the counties of Richmond, Columbia, Lincoln and what soon after became Warren County.

Heath's Meeting House, known during the week days as Heath's Academy, was a popular place in Warren County in the early days of its history for holding Methodist services. Tradition has it that Bishop Asbury held a Love Feast there from nine A. M. to two P. M. on one Sunday. It is a known fact that Bishop Asbury visited Washington County in1801, and it was doubtless on this particular itinerary that he passed through Warren County and held services at Heath's Meeting House.

Soon after the creation of the county a Catholic Church was organized, the first church of that faith to be organized in the state. It was situated in that part of the county that was later cut off into Taliaferro County.

In 1827, the legislature of Georgia passed an Act to incorporate the Locust Grove Academy in Warren County and appointed as trustees Ignatius Nemmis, William Luckett, William Darden, Gustus Luckett and Silverster Luckett. This school, now no longer in existence, became a boys' orphanage

and school combined. It was conducted in connection with the church.

In 1974 the active churches in the county include the following of Baptist faith:

Camak
Cody Grove
Community
* Elim
Fellowship
Greenwood
Lithonia
Little Briar Creek
Long Creek
Millrock
Mt. Beulah
Mt. Moriah
New Providence
New Salem
Norwood
Payne
Pleasant Grove
Rocky Branch
* Salem
Shiloh
Stamp Branch
Stoney Grove
Union Springs
United Pilgrim
Warrenton
Williams Creek
Williams Grove

Methodist Churches in the county are:

Andrew Chapel
Barnett
Bethel A. M. E.
Camak
* Ebenezer
Fountain Camp Ground
Johnson
Macedonia
Mesena
Mt. Aldred C. M. E.
New Hope A. M. E.
Norwood
Prospect
St. John A. M. E.
Sandy Grove A. M. E.
Stone Chapel A. M. E.
Trinity A. M. E.
Walker's Chapel C. M. E.
Warrenton

Other denominations are:

Prayer Mission C. M. E.
Martin Tabernacle Free Church
Shoals Primitive Baptist
Wilkes Temple Church of God in Christ

Catholicism
* Inactive

CAMAK BAPTIST CHURCH

Governor A. D. Chandler chartered the town of Camak on December 22, 1898. At that time, the Camak Methodist Church was 18 years old. After his arrival in Camak in 1899, Mr. B. A. Guill prayed about the matter of a Baptist Church and began to ask several of his friends of Baptist persuasion to join him in prayer.

In June 30, 1901, the Baptist brethren of Camak and the surrounding area gathered for the first official meeting of Baptists in Camak. Several ministers and deacons from neighboring churches came to serve as a council for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. After accepting letters from 19 individuals, the 19 charter members resolved that: 1. the name of the

church should be known as Camak Baptist Church, 2. the church convenant and articles of faith were adopted, and the dedication was held at 2:30 the same day. Brother R. E. L. Harris delivered the dedication after which Brother S. L. Patillo motioned that the church be recognized as a regular Baptist Church. Three members were added to the membership during the afternoon. Brothers B. A. Guill, S. W. Ivey, and J. A. Chapman were elected deacons. J. A. Chapman wás its first treasurer.

Tradition states that the church held services in the living room of Mr. B. A. Guill's home from the beginning in June, 1901, until the one large room building was erected in 1903 on a site of land donated by Mrs. Maurel Lazenby Jones.

The church prospered. The railroad workers did provide great assistance but they were often transferred from Camak, thus causing a constant turnover of members.

In 1916, a great step of progress took place. From 1901 to 1916, the church held one service per month. Through the leadership of the Holy Spirit the ministry was expanded to two Sundays in the month. This one-half time ministry was continued until the full-time ministry began in 1953.

In 1920, church membership was 113, but the decade closed with a membership of 148. Almost all the pastors in the period 1920-1940 were ministerial students from Mercer University.

The 1940's, 1950's, and 1960's could be characterized as years of reaping some of the rewards of sowing in earlier years. During the World War II years, many members worked sixteen hours daily. Despite this, they remained faithful to the church. One of the church's own, Brother Edward Lee, was called by God and he prepared himself for the gospel ministry. On June 3, 1943, he was ordained by the church with Pastor J. E. Abstance leading the ceremony. Brother Lee has since served the Lord in several pastorates in Georgia.

In February 1934, the church building was destroyed by fire. The Camak Methodists offered their facilities; and since the two denominations met on alternate Sundays, their offer was accepted. Plans for the new church included parking space in front of the church and recreational facilities, and in February 1936, the church was completed, debt free.

When Camak school was consolidated in a county school in 1956, agreement was reached that the school building be given to the four churches in the territory that the school served. The Warren County Board of Education deeded the school equally to Macedonia, Mesena, Camak Methodist, and Camak Baptist Churches. In 1963, the churches sold the property to W. A. Knox for two thousand dollars.

The pastorium was purchased from the Lazenby family for $1500 in 1964, and after this acquisition, the need to remodel the church building was felt to be necessary. The structure built after the fire was not sufficient for the needs of the 60's. In addition to beautifying the interior of the church, central heat and air conditioning were installed.

The past has been glorious as the Lord Jesus Christ has poured His blessings on Camak Baptist Church. The members have had the vision to provide for the needs of the congregation. Community growth has shown the need for fellowship facilities. The church approved erecting another building behind the church for this purpose.

CODY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Cody Grove Baptist Church is located on the East Warrenton road about four miles from Warrenton.

In the year 1882, the church was organized under a brush arbor on the property of Mr. Ellia Norris by people who came from Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, namely: Rev. Mike Wilson, Willie Jones, Frank Johnson, Adline Walker, Louise Johnson, Ben Penson, and Hennie Penson. D. T. Walker was the first clerk.

Rev. Mike Wilson served as pastor for six months, and it was during this time that Mr. Jep Cody gave the church an acre of land on which to build a house of worship. The first person to be baptized was Rosa Jackson.

Rev. Pate was the next pastor, and when the church building burned in 1885, it was under his leadership that it was rebuilt. He served as pastor for 56 years. Rev. C. P. Wright followed him as pastor and served twelve years, Rev. J. C. Coleman served for eight years before the present pastor, Rev. C. H. Ford.

Cody Grove Church has been remodeled in recent years – beautified on the inside, the outside has been brick veneered, and running water and rest rooms installed.

At the present time there is a membership of 100, and four members serve on the board of deacons.

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Community Baptist Church in Camak, Georgia, came into being in October, 1970, when Shi Mission A. M. E. was changed to Community Baptist Church by Rev. C. P. Wright, Rev. Lester Lee, Rev. Houston, Deacon Jerry Booker, Deacon A. L. Reese, and others.

Rev. M. H. Floyd has been pastor of the church since its change. He has purchased a church bus, and in these past five years, the church membership has grown, and the church building has been enlarged and remodeled.

ELIM CHURCH

Elim Church is situated about six miles due west from the town of Warrenton, and was established in December, 1830, by a presbytery composed of the following ministers of the gospel, Joseph Roberts, Elisha Perryman, Henry Perkins and Jesse R. Battle.

Four acres of land had been given to the church by William Hill and Harmon Hubert. The deed to the property was destroyed by fire in 1854 when some of the records burned with the courthouse, but the plat is still in existence.

In 1882, the church bought from Mrs. Mittie Baker one and three-quarters of an acre for a school.

Joseph Roberts was its first pastor, serving from 1830 to 1836. He was followed by:

Gutheridge Ivey, 1836 to July 1838.
Radford Gunn, July 1838 to January 1861.
Wm. M. Verdery, January 1861 to May 1862.
J. W. Ellington, May 1862 to January 1874.

J. H. Alexander, January 1874 to January 1875.
J. W. Ellington, January 1875 to January 1876.
L. R. L. Jennings, January 1876 to January 1882.
T. J. Pilcher, January 1882 to January 1885.
W. H. Norton, January 1885 to February 1887.
J. W. Ellington, February 1887 to December 1887.
T. B. West, December 1887 to may 1898.
J. B. Guilllebeau 1898 to 1904.
M. J. Bruce, 1904 to 1907.
W. A. H. Flint, 1907 to 1911.
E. L. Shuler, 1911 to 1912.
A. F. Sellers, 1912 to 1913.
W. A. H. Flint, 1913 to 1915.
E. E. Steele, 1915 to 1917.
H. D. Gaber, 1917 to 1918.
R. N. Valentine, 1918 to 1919.
T. B. Wynn 1919 to 1923.
E. A. Cottrell, 1923 to 1932.

Samuel Smith, Sr., and Adam Broom were the first deacons and Samuel Smith was the first clerk. It was he who prepared the first roll and wrote the first minutes.

It is gratifying to see with what patience and endurance some of these men served their church. Rev. J. W. Ellington served as pastor 26 years. The records show that all these years were not served consecutively, but from them, we judge that he would resign and remain away for several years when again he would hear the church calling him and he would return to his beloved flock.

Radford Gunn served 22 consecutive years. "Rad" Gunn, as he was familiarly called, must have been a very strong character. He served faithfully and well the churches of Warren County and they imbibed much of his strength and virility.

S. R. Ivey, better known as Stokes, is rounding out his 68th year as clerk of the church. Such consistent service is far beyond the ordinary and deserves much praise and appreciation from his constituents here, and he will certainly "have his reward" in the beyond.

Meetings were held once a month, on Saturday, when the preaching service was followed by the conference, when the members, who had transgressed the laws of the church were dealt punishment. If a brother or sister expressed penitence for the sin committed and a future renunciation, mercy was always extended, but flagrant disregard of admonitions invariably brought excommunication.

The church sent from her membership as ministers of the gospel, John M. Hall, James R. Gunn, J. C. Gunn and T. J. Pilcher. Rev. John A. Shivers was licensed to preach by Elim Church. He was ordained at Black Springs Church.

In 1875, a most disastrous cyclone demolished the church building, killing one of the members and injuring others. In removing fallen timbers in extricating the injured, the book containing the church minutes was found by Mr. William Shurley. When he mounted his horse to return to his home, he carried the book under his arm; but as his horse swam the swollen creek, he lost the book and it remained in the bed of the creek until the waters had

subsided. Then it was recovered.

One of the members hitched his horse to a small tree during the Saturday service on the day that the cyclone struck the church and when it had passed, he looked for his horse and neither horse nor tree were where he left them. On looking around he saw his horse and when he approached it, he found him still tied to the tree which had blown to another part of the church grounds and had become entangled in other growth. He never knew if they were actually blown away or if when the tree was uprooted and blown, the horse trotted along to the new position.

In 1930, Elim Church celebrated its centennial anniversary.

The pastor, Elder E. A. Cottrell, was in charge.

Revs. M. J. Bruce and W. A. H. Flint were the ex-pastors present. Brother Flint was the speaker at the morning hour.

After a bountiful dinner served at the noon hour, the afternoon session was given to history and reminiscenses and some interesting facts of the great old church.

For many years, membership dwindled, there were no services held, and finally, there was only one member, Osmer E. Ivey, whose home was in Milledgeville, Georgia. He was an elderly man, unable to attend to the maintenance of the church building. All of the pews and everything inside the church were stolen and even some of the windows and boards were removed by vandals both inside and outside the building.

In 1974, the building was condemned by Warren County for the purpose of constructing a road over the ground on which it stood. As owner of the church building by virtue of being heir of its last member, Mrs. Osmer E. Ivey filed a petition in Warren Superior Court and was granted six months time in which to remove the building. She gave to Billy Cason the remains of the old church, and Mr. Cason moved it to his plantation in the Beall Springs Community.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

The Fellowship Baptist Church was organized in 1872 under the direction of Deacon Adam Jones (white) of the Long Creek Baptist Church and Brother Loss Cason of the Mill Creek Baptist Church. Brother Cason(white) acted as clerk of the church. Deacon L. M. Williams, Brother Jacob Cheeley and Sister Patsy Lewis were borrowed members from the Second Mineral Springs Baptist Church, and Deacon Charles Lewis and Sister Nancy Lewis were borrowed members from the New Salem Baptist Church.

In 1886, the church was moved to its present site on the county line road on land given by Rev. Adam Jones (white). As the church grew in membership, new organizations came into being: the choir, B. T. U., Usher Board, and Sunshine Band for the young folks.

Numerous improvements have been made to the original building. In recent years, the church members have added a new roof, have brick veneered, underpinned, and refloored the church, added a pastor's study, and installed pumps to run water for restrooms. The interior has been remodeled with panelling, wall-to-wall carpet, central heat, and new pulpit furniture, choir stand, and pews.

Ten people from the church have been ordained to preach the gospel.

Pastors of the church from its beginning include: Frank Bentley, S. L.

Byrd, William Rayford, C. S. Radford, L. H. Mills, M. T. Thompson, J. H. Evans, A. B. Thomas, W. D. Hubert, C. C. Neal, A. L. Calhoun, J. R. Thurmond, and its present pastor, F. C. Williams.

GREENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

The Greenwood Baptist Church, located in Barnett, Georgia, was organized in August, 1866. The tract of land on which the church was built was donated by Mr. Lawrence Battle. The first church building, which was constructed under the leadership of Rev. Pete Johnson, was destroyed by fire in 1918. There was a period during which the congregation was without a meeting place; but in 1919, the church was rebuilt under the leadership of Rev. J. H. Horton.

Since its organization, the church has had eight pastors. In all there have been 28 deacons, and 13 clerks. At present the membership numbers about 250. There have been a Crenshaw and Veazey on the Deacon Board since the second set of deacons was elected.

To modernize the church the members have added a pulpit set and communion table, made a choir stand, built rest rooms and remodeled the inside.

LITHONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

The Lithonia Baptist Church, located near Camak, was organized in 1874. The land was purchased from the late William Mays. Trustees were Dave Mays, Joseph Williams, Reuben Hill, Aaron Haverlet, Thomas Dunn, and William Wilber.

In 1928, the members of Lithonia bought the Camak Methodist Church, disassembed, and moved it. The old frame structure could hardly be recognized today. The outside has been brick veneered, the inside completely remodeled and refurnished, and a new annex has been added for a fellowship hall.

The all-day centennial celebration in 1974 was a joyous occasion for all the members and guests.

Lithonia Church is located on the road between Norwood and Camak.

Rev. John Fox, Rev. Mike Wilson, and Rev. Frank Bentley served as early pastors. There have been nine pastors and the present one is Rev. W. C. Heard. Presently there are seven deacons.

The church property is valued at $37,000.

LITTLE BRIAR CREEK CHURCH

Little Briar Creek Church was organized January 1, 1777, and is the fourth Baptist church organized in Georgia. It was located at the confluence of Briar and Sweetwater Creeks, at the old iron foundry where Faucetts Mill now stands. The structure was built on unhewn logs at a cost of about $50.00. The second structure was a frame building erected at a cost of about $500.00, called "Franklin's Meeting House." The nails used in this building were forged upon the anvil of Vincent A. Tharpe (subsequently a pastor of the church) from iron hauled by wagon from Philadelphia. The third and last

building is a frame one, a neat house of modern architecture. It is situated one mile from the second one and is still called Little Briar Creek Church.

Rev. William Franklin was its organizer and first pastor, and it was from him that the first church derived its name.

Of her members, this church has ordained into the ministry: George Franklin, Vincent A. Tharp, James Granade, Henry Pool, John Adkins, Aaron Adkins, Isaac Hart, Billington Blanchard, S. L. Roney, and William B. B. Cason.

In 1829, Little Briar Creek Church withdrew from its association, the Hephzibah Baptist Association, because of some tendency on the part of that body to support missions. The church at this time was furnishing the association with both moderator and clerk. In the meantime almost half of its membership had withdrawn in order to unite with those who were avowedly anti-missionary. Even after its return to the association, it made no contribution to foreign missions until ten years later. Since that time, however, the church has heartily cooperated with others in promoting the gospel. Particularly significant is the influence of the church in organizing Fellowship Church near Gibson and Reedy Creek in Jefferson County as well as some preaching stations.

In the five year period 1970-1974, fifteen members have been added to the church.

Former pastors include: William Franklin, Joseph Bussey, Vincent A. Tharpe, Winder Hillman, James Granade, John Adkins, Henry Poole, Sr., Aaron Adkins, Man Davanant, Radford Gunn, Sam L. Roney, Thomas J. Pilcher, J. L. Shivers, E. R. Carswell, Jr., William H. Norton, James Stapleton, Thomas J. Cummings, Thomas M. Atkinson, J. W. Brown, Prior G. Veazey, James W. Waller, G. W. Garner, Willis Howard, Albert Howard, W. H. Lord, T. C. Burrell, Wayne Brooks, Clay Manley, Bob Hendricks, Bob Vinson, Gerald Harris, Danny Zellner, Jo Shank, John Wesley Seaman, Sr.

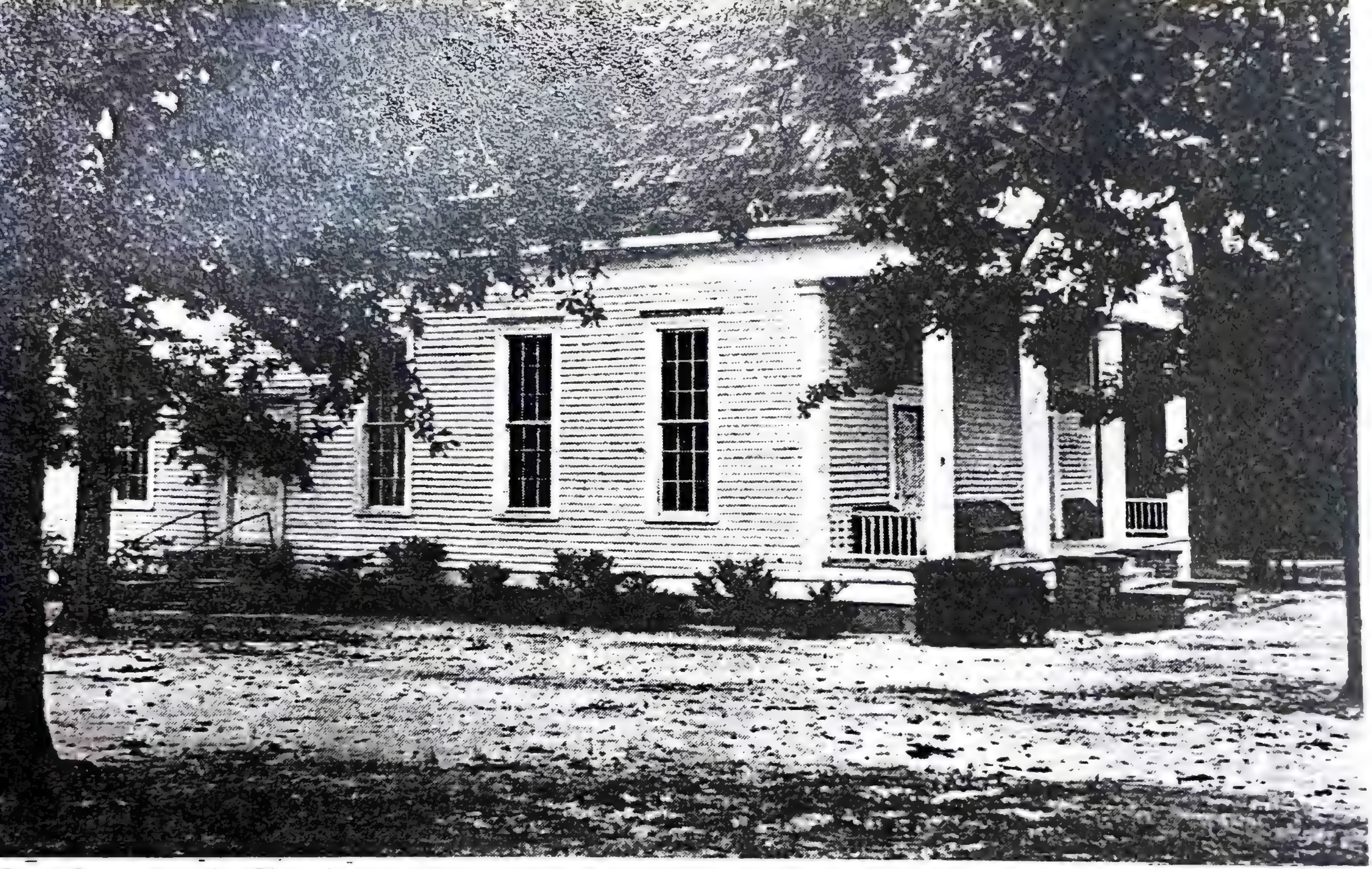
LONG CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten years after the Declaration of Independence, three years before George Washington took the oath of office as the first President of the United States, and seven years before the creation of Warren County, a band of Christians constituted "The Church of Christ on Long Creek of Ogeechee." This event, sometime in 1786, was the beginning of the Long Creek Baptist Church.

The deed conveying the land on which the edifice was erected is a two-acre tract. Nathan Fowler for a consideration of five shillings gave title to Adam Jones and Edmund Nugent as elders and managers for the church. Nothing is known about the original building used as "the meeting house."

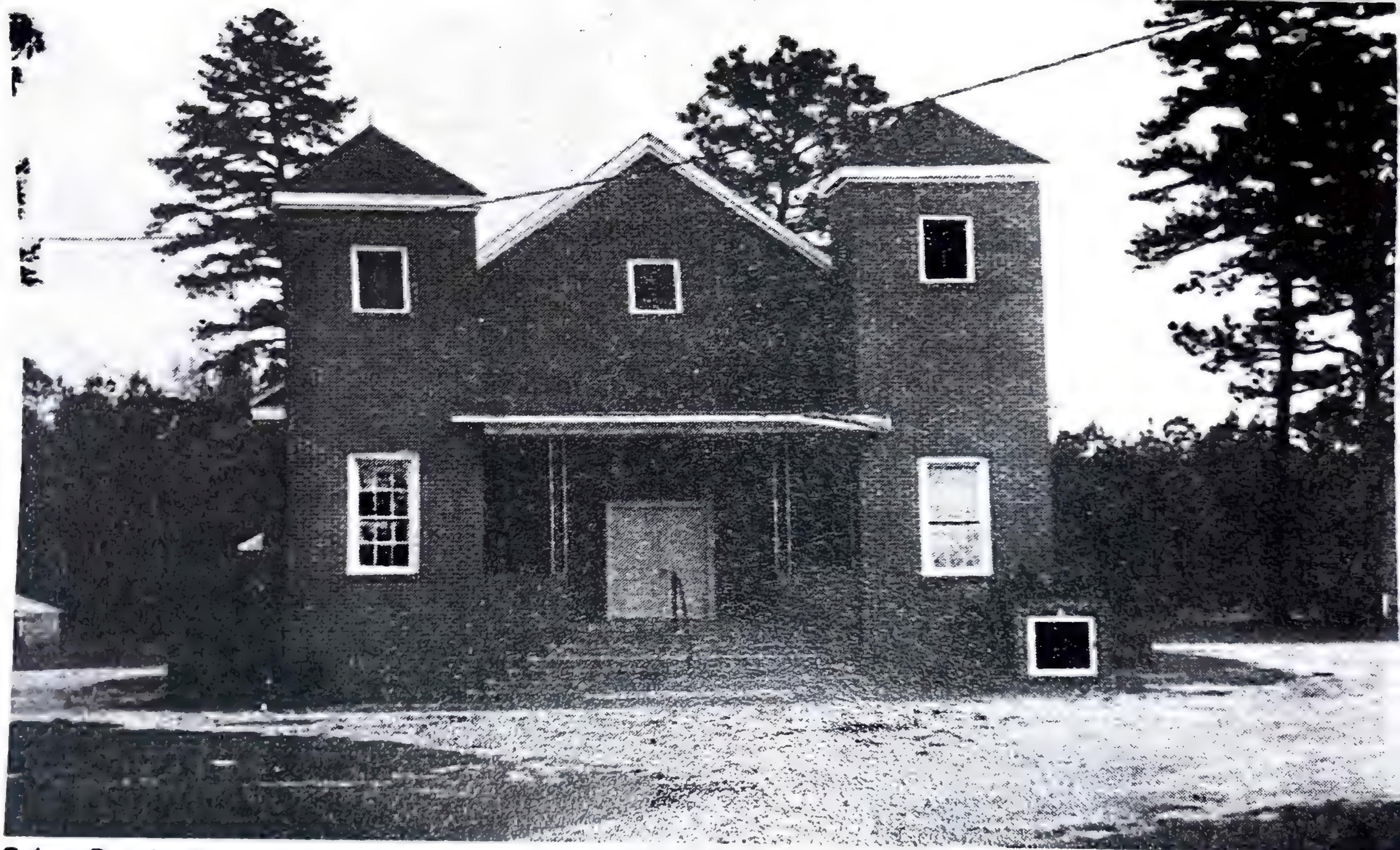
In a history of the church written in1912, reference is made to the early church building being a log structure. In 1817, an addition of 10 feet was added to the side of the building. When repairs were needed in 1825, these were made for $10.00.

In July, 1851, the church took into consideration the "propriety and necessity" of repairing the old meeting house or building a new one. A committee composed of William Fowler, John Veazey, Adam Cason, Jasper McCrary, Adam Jones, T. W. Fowler, S. R. Culpepper, J. R. Beall and Samuel Hall were instructed to examine the old house and report. A month later



Briar Creek Baptist Church

Photo: E. H. Hightower



Salem Baptist Church

Photo: E. H. Hightower

they recommended the building of a new structure, but "in consequence of the fatal drouth now on the land and the shortness of the present crop they recommend the postponement of building until next May." When May came the next year, the church agreed "to build a good meeting house" and appointed the same committee to draw up a subscription and let out the house to the lowest bidder. Evidently the planning and building took place forthwith, for the minutes state that no conference was held by the church in November and December 1852 and January and February 1853, "in consequence of the old building being pulled down and building a new one." Five years later they finished off their house by ceiling and painting it. These people built for themselves and posterity. This building, still in use, is a handsome structure of pleasing proportions.

There is mention only of small repairs during the next 50 years. In 1903, the interior was remodeled under the personal supervision of the pastor, Rev. B. H. Ivey.

Five years before REA brought electricity to this rural area, the church in 1937 purchased and had installed a Delco system which cost $125.00. In the early 1950's, considerable redecorating was done to the interior of the house while in the late 1950's, an addition was made to the back side. The men of the church did much of the work themselves. This addition provided Sunday School classrooms, a kitchen, an assembly area, restrooms and a baptistry. The next major change was in 1961-62 when the church was brick veneered and a porch was added.

In all these almost 200 years, the two-acre original site was all the land owned by the church. Efforts to purchase additional land had failed until 1974 when some land became available. The church bought some 30 acres surrounding the church at a cost of more than $9,000.00.

The first pastor of the church was Jephtha Vining. Since the minutes from the beginning in 1786 to February 1788 are missing, no details are available on the selection of this first man to serve the church. According to the church record Brother Vining was "deceased October 1797." No mention is made of a pastor for the period 1797 until January 1807 when the entry in the minutes states: "Taking under consideration for forlorn situation, being destitute of a pastor, it was unanimously agreed that the Friday before our next meeting be set apart as a day of fasting and prayer and that we endeavor that day to make choice of a pastor." Then on February 20, 1807, after the members spent the day together, they nearly unanimously agreed that Brother Adam Jones was their choice." This is Adam Jones, Sr., who had been ordained by the church in 1792. The practice of spending a day in fasting and prayer was practiced upon other occasions in the selection of a pastor and also in the selection of deacons.

In the first 100 years the church had only nine pastors; since that time there have been 14 more – 23 in all. J. D. Lever, the present pastor, holds the record for length of service. In 1974, he has served the church for 26 years. To mark his 20th anniversary, the church members gave the pastor and his wife a trip to the Holy Land.

Until 1935, the church followed the practice of having services once a month on Saturday and Sunday morning. That year they voted to discontinue the Saturday services and instead have services on Sunday morning and evening. In September, 1950, the church became a half-time church. For some years the present pastor, J. D. Lever, has served both Long

Creek and Norwood Church. Following is a list of the pastors who have served the church:

* Jephthah Vining	1786-1797
No record	1797-1807
Adam Jones	1807-1825
Joseph Roberts	1826-1834
William Tucker	1834-1836
Radford Gunn	1837-1859
Asa Duggan	1860-1865
T. J. Veasey	1866-1881
E. R. Carswell	1882-1883
W. H. Norton	1884-1886
* T. B. West	1887-1898
* B. H. Ivey	1898-1911
* C. B. Wright	1911-1921
H. R. Chapman	1922-1924
C. M. Coalson	1924-1925
F. T. Smith	1925-1926
R. B. Harrison	1926-1933
J. Carlton Dyches	1934-1941
C. H. Calhoun	1942
T. C. Burrell	1943-1945
T. L. Brown	1946
L. B. Card	1947
K. Kelly Barnett	1948
J. D. Lever	1948

* Died while serving the church.

The monthly conferences of the church were the courts. Members testified as witnesses against a member overtaken with a sin. There were times when the offender presented himself to the church to be dealt with for his transgression. The body was long suffering and patient with an erring brother of sister; but when the church was finally convinced that the errant one was unrepentant, they cut him off from fellowship with them. When a question arose that the church felt might reflect discredit on Christ if decided by its limited knowledge, the church called for help from Williams Creek, Powelton, Horeb, Bethel, Fellowship and Briar Creek, perhaps one and sometimes all of them. Likewise, Long Creek received requests from other churches to assist them in resolving some difficulty which they were experiencing. Also, assistance was had from sister churches in the ordination of deacons and preachers.

Negroes were received into full fellowship of the church in the early days. There are references in the 1790's to Black Brothers and Black Sisters.

It is not possible to know the extent of the black membership at any one time,however, the church roll for August 5, 1826 – September 26, 1935, lists 35 names of blacks. Twenty-eight of these were received by experience. Five blacks united with the church at one service in 1841 and the same number at a service in 1866. In December, 1864, the church agreed to employ Brother Thomas Veasey to preach to the colored people one Sunday in each month during the ensuing year.

By 1867, there was a strong feeling among many of the colored members

that they wished to withdraw and establish a church of their own. Several church committees consulted with them and aided them in getting a house ready so that they could organize themselves into a church. Until final arrangements were completed, the church agreed that the colored members could use the church for separate services.

In May, 1869, a church conference of great significance was held. At the same meeting two groups were granted letters of dismission. "The following named brethren and sisters, viz. Brethren A. T. Cason, J. F. Cheney, J. J. Eubanks, Joseph Powell, and Sisters Mary Jewel, Mary Bedsole, Grace May, Mary Thompson, M. E. Cheney, and Mary Ann Powel were all granted letters of dismission . . . to constitute a new church at Jewells Mills."

Then letters of dismission were granted the following colored brethren and sisters: Arnold Fowler, Daniel Walker, Henry Wright, Henry Jordan, Jacob Jenkins, Samuel Jones, Rhoda Jordan, Caroline Gilham, Nancy Shank. The purpose of these was to constitute themselves into a new church. Not all colored members joined in withdrawing, for later conferences have references to them. A history written in 1912 stated that "some remained in the church for sometime afterward and a few for life."

The church has enjoyed fellowship in two associations: the Georgia 1786-1849 and the Washington 1849 – present (1974).

The 1912 history of the church written by A. R. Cason and recorded in the minutes says that in the 1850's Rev. James S. Fowler organized a Sunday School and that this was carried on irregularly for some time. The account continues: "There is no mention of this in the records as it was run independent of the church. Since 1880, the church has had a Sunday School regularly, but not until 1892 did the church take charge of the school, assuming all of its obligations."

The Sunday School along with the W. M. S., which is first mentioned in the 1890's, and the Baptist Training Union are organizations which the church sponsors.

Today the church supports the Cooperative Program and gives to special causes beyond its local responsibilities. Missions is a cause especially close to the hearts of the Long Creek Christians and they support their interest with their money. For the year 1974, the gifts to home, state and foreign missions exceeded $7500.00.

A precious occasion in a church is the ordination of the ones called into His service. The roll call of those ordained into the ministry by Long Creek Church include:

Adam Jones 1792
Brother Stanford 1792
(ordained at the request of Averett's Bridge)
Stephen Jones 1846
James S. Fowler 1858
Prior Gardner Veazey 1898
James F. Fulghum 1923
Durward Veazey Cason 1925

Only one of these, Adam Jones, was ever pastor of the church.

The office of deacon is a noble calling. Through the years more than forty men have been chosen to serve in this office. The written records of a church are a peculiar treasure. Long Creek is fortunate in that except for two, two-year periods there is available the clerk's account of the church's

Mrs. Elizabeth W. Anderson
108 N. Whitehead St.
Warrenton, GA 30828-1255

business for all these years. One man, Adam Jones, Jr., served in this office for 41 years.

On July 10 and 11, 1886, the church celebrated its 100th anniversary. Several ministers were present and there were several sermons. One feature was the reading of a history of the church from its beginning by Brother Thomas Veasey. Unfortunately this history was not incorporated into the minutes. The 150th anniversary was observed in 1936, and in 1961 the 175th coincided with a dedication of the new annex which the church had built.

Now in 1974, the church is 12 years away from its 200th birthday.

MILLROCK BAPTIST CHURCH

In May, 1888, the Millrock Baptist Church was organized by Rev. Ryle Ivey, Rev. Lewis Drain (black) and Mr. Stokes Ivey (white). Rev. Ivey was called as pastor and he served as pastor for 48 years until his death.

Rev. U. G. Sickey who was called as pastor in 1948 served the church for 20 years. Rev. Jack Smith, Jr., became pastor in 1968.

Ground was broken for a new church in 1973, and in August, 1974, dedication services for the new church were held.

MT. BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH

Mt. Beulah Baptist Church, located about 15 miles northeast of Warrenton, was constructed in 1888. The first pastor was Rev. S. W. Kaney who served for approximately four years. At this time the church had only six members: Rev. S. W. Kaney, Joseph Walker, Thomas R. Rabun, John D. McNair, Samuel Kelly, and J. W. McGahee. At the end of six years, the membership had increased to 50.

The church was a member of the Hephzibah Association until 1921, when it joined the Kilpatrick Association. At this time it had a membership of 27.

The church building consisted of one room approximately 50' x 30'. Church property was valued at $1,000.00.

The church was not active in any way from 1927 until 1932. Mt. Beulah was reorganized May 1, 1932, with 15 female members on roll. Sunday School and prayer meetings were held each Sunday. Mt. Beulah was a quarter-time church (preaching once a month) until 1961, when it went full time.

In July 1947, four Sunday School rooms were added to the rear of the church. In 1954, two additional Sunday School rooms were added with space for a vestibule and bathrooms. In 1964, the church building was brick veneered. Recently, the church has added wall-to-wall carpet and new pews. In 1970, a pastorium was built at a cost of approximately $35,000.00. At the present time the church property is valued at about $85,000.00.

Mt. Beulah now has 165 members. The church program includes Sunday School, Training Union, Brotherhood, and W. M. U. Rev. Gerald Harper is the pastor.

MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church which is located four miles west of Warrenton on the Warrenton-Mayfield road was organized in 1885 by Rev. C. Morris. Three ordained ministers, Rev. Handy Fuller, Rev. Sam Byrd, and Rev.

Anderson Howard, and six members were present. Rev. Morris served the church as pastor for 37 years. Two ministers were ordained under his leadership.

Former pastors of the church are: M. W. Thie, A. Pate, H. H. Hunter, H. H. Hughes, K. D. Lee, M. M. McTier, and R. R. Riggons.

The church grew in spirit and membership, and improvements were made from time to time. In 1968, the old frame building was torn down and a cement block building erected. Rev. M. M. McTier was pastor when the work on the new building started; and after his two years of service, Rev. R. R. Riggons who is the present pastor was called. During the years of his ministry, water has been run to the church, restrooms, and a pastor's study added, and the building carpeted.

There are approximately 350 members. Church worship services are held once a month and Sunday School each Sunday morning.

NEW PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH

On the 24th day of August in 1835, Baptists from a number of other churches met near where the little village of Cadley now stands to organize "The New Providence Church." There were about 48 charter members coming from Williams Creek, Warrenton, Long Creek, Mud Creek, N. C., Rehoboth, and Ebenezer in Wilkes County, and Salem (Barnett) in Taliaferro County. The officiating ministers were Radford Gunn, John Quinton West, and William L. Tucker. Rev. Gunn was unanimously elected as its first pastor.

In September of the same year the church bought a pulpit Bible and hymn books. Syntha Brantley was the first member to be received by experience, and by the end of the year there were more than sixty members.

Other ministers include: Thomas J. Beck, Thomas B. West, J. W. Ellington, J. A. Shank, J. G. Gunter, C. R. Hutchins, A. F. Sellers, R. E. Lee, W. S. Walker, Albert D. Howard, W. F. West, R. E. L. Harris, and W. T. Evans.

In January, 1921, the church called Rev. M. J. Bruce as pastor, and he served for 30 years. He helped to organize the first Training Union, then known as B. Y. P. U. Pastors after Rev. Bruce were: John S. Harris, S. J. Lawson, Felts Dent, Marvin Kelley, Embry Collins, Boyd Reeves and Marvin Britt.

Rev. W. C. Bentley was pastor of the church from 1966 to 1970, and it was during this time that some repair work was done on the church building and gas heat installed.

Under the ministry of Brother Wayne Usry, who followed Rev. Bentley, new carpet was put on the floor. The church went to full time in the fall of 1972, when Brother Edward M. Powell was pastor. Two new classrooms have been added, and an Adult Men's Bible class has been organized.

The church celebrated its 100th anniversary August, 1935. It has seen many yesterdays and is looking forward to many more tomorrows.

The church has produced a number of useful laymen. Among them is Mr. N. E. McGinty who was active in Sunday School work. Rev. T. J. Beck, Sr. was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in 1843. One of our great educators and preachers, Dr. C. Lamar McGinty, was reared and went out from his church to fill a large place of usefulness among Southern Baptists. One of the

pastors, Rev. W. S. Walker, was for sometime a missionary to China. The remains of two former pastors, Rev. Radford Gunn, and Rev. T. J. Beck, Sr. are buried in the old cemetery north of the church. Rev. M. J. Bruce served a total of 88 years with an average pastorate of 36 years for five pastorates. He, with his wife, are buried in the new cemetery near the public road.

NEW SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

In May, 1868, the Long Creek Baptist Church, white, granted letters of dismission to the following: Arnold Fowler, Daniel Walker, Henry Wright, Henry Jordan, Jack Jenkins, Samuel Jones, Rhoda Jordan, Caroline Gilliam and Nancy Shank for the purpose of organizing a church. These brethren and sisters first met under a brush arbor and with the assistance of Rev. Henry Anderson and Arnold Howell organized the New Salem Baptist Church.

When Henry Anderson was elected pastor, there were added to the church three white members from Long Creek Church. They were Daniel Roberts, Nat Fowler and Frank Simpson.

In addition to this first pastor there have been a number of others. Some of them were: Handy Fuller, George Slaughter, C. H. Hollaway, R. W. Walker, H. Hunter, W. T. Baxley, and the present pastor, Rev. Robert E. Edwards, who has served since 1946. Eleven men have been ordained to the ministry during the time since the church was founded.

New Salem is located on the Macon highway.

NORWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

The Norwood Baptist Church was founded and organized on September 15, 1887. At the time, there was no church building, so services were held in the Norwood Methodist Church until one could be erected. From the beginning there has been a high sense of denominational cooperation in the community.

At a church conference on Saturday, January 22, 1888, the church received and accepted a deed for the lot on which to build the Norwood Baptist Church. The deed was given by Mr. F. H. McGinty in honor of his wife, Jane Elliott McGinty. The building was erected, and on Sunday April 29, 1888, the dedicatory sermon was preached by Brother T. J. Beck.

As the years passed, the church survived; but it was not until 1947 that it really began to grow. Dr. C. L. McGinty retired as president of Bessie Tift College and accepted the call to serve this church as pastor. The church went to half-time. Some of the changes introduced into the church during Dr. McGinty's six years as pastor included the adoption of a budget, the organization of a B. T. U., an increase in gifts to missions, and installation of gas heat.

When Dr. McGinty resigned in 1954 because of ill health, Rev. J. D. Lever came to serve the church and is its present minister. During these years, many goals have been set, and many dreams have come true. In 1954, cathedral windows were installed; in 1955, the interior was beautifully redecorated. The same year saw the erection of a bulletin board by the W. M. U. and the B. T. U., and in 1957, new carpet was put in, and a communion table was given in memory of Mr. J. H. Hawes by his wife and son. The annex was completed in 1961. This provided for an educational area, several classrooms, and a kitchen. New memorial pews were installed in 1964, and

in 1967, the original building was brick veneered. Having become aware of the need of a pastor's home, the church purchased a total electric mobile home for the use of the pastor and his wife. This, also, was in 1967, and six years later a new lighting system was installed in the auditorium.

In the latter part of 1972, an electric organ was given to the church as a memorial gift to Mr. James Vernie Hall. The dedication service, which was held on January 21, 1973, coincided with Rev. Lever's 19th anniversary of serving the church as pastor.

PAYNE BAPTIST CHURCH

Payne Baptist Church in Mesena, Georgia, was organized on the second Sunday in May, 1875.

Much progress has been made and the church has prospered. At the present, the building of a new church is in progress.

Rev. W. C. Heard is pastor of the church, Joel L. Butts is chairman of the Deacon Board, and Jessie M. Smith is church clerk.

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

There are no official records of the origin of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, but it has been learned from some of the older members that immediately after the abolition of slavery the Negro people of Warrenton, desiring to worship God, attended the Warrenton Baptist Church for whites. This arrangement continued until the colored Methodist church was founded. Then many of the colored Baptist attended this church.

Later the Baptist people had a keen desire to have a place of worship of their own, so a small group got together at the home of Doris Dawson and made plans for a house of worship. They purchased from Adam Jones a blacksmith shop where, for some time, worship services were held. The site where the church now stands was purchased from Mrs. A. Morris. The late Brother Spencer, acting for the church, negotiated the deal and the first building was constructed by Brother Jennings. Since that time the structure has undergone many changes to make it more beautiful, more convenient, and more comfortable.

The first pastor to serve Pleasant Grove was Rev. John Fox and the present pastor is Rev. Lamar Davenport. Rev. Charles Williams served the church for 34 years.

ROCKY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1878, under a brush arbor, the Rocky Branch Church was organized on land donated by Mr. Hal Baker. This was done under the guidance of the following persons: Mr. Ellenton Pilcher, Mr. Doc Jones, and Mr. Bill Shelton (white). The Rev. Handy Fuller was elected pastor and he served the church 25 years. Three members elected to go into the ministry from the church.

The church has grown from its beginning with a group of six to three hundred members, from a brush arbor to a modern building with modern facilities which include electric lights, gas heat, indoor restrooms, modern furniture and carpeting.

Rocky Branch is 10 miles west of Warrenton in the west-central part of Warren County.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

Shiloh is located in the Cadley community.

Original members of Shiloh first went with the white people to church at Providence at Cadley, Georgia. Later the people gave them trees to build a church. The trees were cut, the branches trimmed, and they were formed into a brush arbor under which these early souls worshipped. The first pastor was Rev. John Fox.

Later a church building was constructed. Unfortuantely it was destroyed by a storm, but the people rebuilt it. A number of pastors have served the church. One, J. L. Roberts, served for 43 years. The present pastor, C. H. Forth, has served the church since 1967.

STAMP BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

Stamp Branch Baptist Church is located on the road from Warrenton to Wrens in the Briar Creek section of the county. The church has been organized since 1871, and has been active all of these years. In the past three years, a pastor's study has been added, a deacon and missionary room erected, a fellowship hall built, and water run to the church and restrooms added.

Rev. T. M. Burton serves as the present pastor.

UNION SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Union Springs Baptist Church was established in God's name in the year 1896, near the St. John A. M. E. Church in Norwood, Georgia.

Several years later, land was purchased in Norwood from the late Dr. Wyman Pilcher. This became the site of the church. At that time the Rev. Handy Fuller was pastor.

In 1957, a new building was constructed near the old structure. Nine pastors have served the church since its beginning with Rev. James Battle serving presently. We have had 20 deacons.

Union Springs is a member of the Fourth Shiloh Baptist Association and the State and National Baptist Convention.

Sunday School and B. T. U. are weekly training programs at the church. In all there are eight organizations in which members can participate. Monthly services are held every third Sunday.

The members and pastor are praying continually that God will give us understanding hearts so that we can enjoy fellowship with other churches and be of service in our community.

UNITED PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

This church was brought into being under very adverse circumstances. We were working energetically and harmoniously in our former church. Then on the third Saturday in February, 1974, we experienced a very serious meeting. All the principles and doctrines were discarded by a majority of the

members. Led as we thought by the Lord, we called some of the other members together and organized a church in the name of the Lord. It was our hope and prayer that His will and principles could be carried out.

Construction on a church building was begun in the fall of 1974. Rev. R. T. Stevenson is pastor.

STONEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Stoney Grove Baptist Church was organized and a building erected in 1880. Services were held in the original building for 50 years after which the building was torn down and moved closer to the road. This was done under the leadership of Rev. E. G. Wilson. In 1969, the members erected a cement block building to worship in. Since that time many improvements have been made: namely, a new piano, pulpit set, carpet, and new pews, running water, and restrooms.

Rev. Willie Crew is the present pastor. The church has a membership of two hundred with nine deacons serving. Sunday School is held twice a month.

WARRENTON BAPTIST CHURCH

The records of Warrenton Baptist Church have twice been destroyed by fire - in 1854, when the town was partly burned, and in 1872, when the Phelps Brothers' store was burned. At a meeting of Georgia Baptist Association in 1829, the Warrenton Baptist Church reported "one addition by letter, none by baptism, no losses by death, letter, or expulsion, and $2 collected for missionary and benevolent purposes." There were 11 members, but only the following six names were known: Rev. Robert Fleming, Samuel Gheesling, Joseph Wright, William Castleberry, Thomas Lockett, and Mrs. Elizabeth Gheesling.

Rev. Robert Fleming was not only one of the charter members of the church, but was its first pastor. It was supposedly he who made the report at the Georgia Baptist Association in 1829.

As the general custom with all the churches in the south, the colored people worshipped with the white members and constituted a part of the church membership. They occupied seats in the gallery or in the rear of the building. In 1847, the church had 45 members, 18 of which were Negroes.

After the close of the War Between the States, the Negroes withdrew in a body. The church permitted them still to worship in the building, giving them one Sunday in the month for services of their own with their own preacher. This continued until about 1873 when, with the help of their white friends, they were able to build churches of their own.

In 1884, a new house of worship was begun; and after completion in 1885, a dedication service was held, with Dr. Lansing Burroughs of Augusta, Georgia, bringing the message. Rev. W. L. Kilpatrick was pastor at the time.

This building was thoroughly remodeled, brick veneered, and Sunday School rooms added on the west side in 1914, during the pastorate of Rev. C. B. Wright. The building committee was W. L. Shurley, chairman, W. H. Fowler, and N. S. Ivey.

In 1926, during the pastorate of W. P. Brooks, a brick-veneered annex was added, making the church one of the most up-to-date houses of worship in

any small town in the state.

A pastorium was erected in 1904, while B. H. Ivey was pastor. N. S. Ivey and S. L. Patillo were the committee appointed to purchase a site and materials to go into the building. Prior to this the pastors did not live in Warrenton with any degree of regularity, but they have been residents since the pastorium was completed.

For many years the church had quarter time, having preaching only once a month, then half-time preaching services, but on December 1, 1924, it entered upon full time and continues to have full-time services.

As the years went by, the contributions of the Warrention Baptist Church grew larger, and it is an item of interest to friends of the church, and of pardonable pride to the members that during a $75-million campaign, the Warrenton Baptist Church, with not much over a membership of 100, gave the sum of $10,313.00.

In 1954, it was deemed necessary to enlarge the church to accommodate the growing Sunday School membership. Consequently it was decided to tear down the old annex and build a larger unit which would include a kitchen, dining-reception area, classrooms, pastor's study, office, restrooms, and storage area. A public address system was installed in the church in 1956. Later the church auditorium was remodeled and enlarged. New furnishings, carpet, and stained glass windows were added. An educational building was next to be provided by the church. This building, located directly behind the church, was dedicated in 1970.

The pastorium, which was built in 1904, continued in use until 1940. In 1939, the church voted to build a new house and it was finished and occupied in 1940. Today the pastorium is valued at $25,000 while the whole church properties are valued at $285,000.

The church membership has increased from 140 in 1924 to 351 in 1974. Mrs. W. V. Corbin holds the oldest membership, having been baptized July 25, 1903.

In 1955-56 the total proposed budget for the church was $19,558.00; the one for 1975 stood at $44,000. The church adopted the unified budget system in 1953, and in 1954, adopted a retirement plan for the pastor.

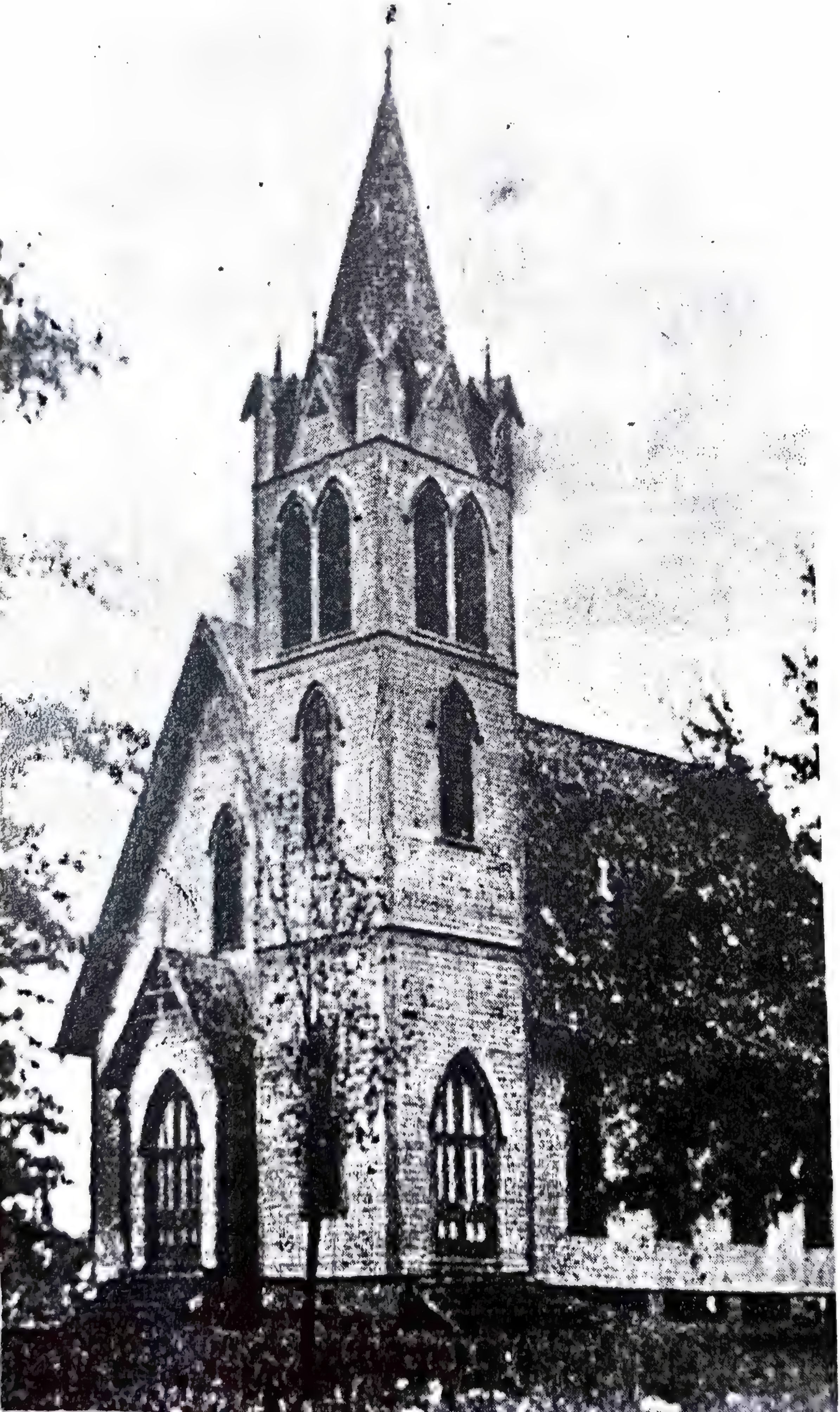
Organizations of the church include Sunday School, B. T. U., Brotherhood, W. M. S., and Daily Vacation Bible School.

One of the most beautiful spots in the city of Warrenton is the Memory Garden at the church. The garden was started during World War II when a hedgerow of sasanqua was set out honoring those who served in the armed forces from the church. From time to time many plants have been given as living memorials to their loved ones. Mrs. S. E. DuPuis, who worked in the garden many years, was honored after her death by having a marble bench placed in the garden in her memory.

Of peculiar interest to those who treasure items from the past is the "Memorabilia Room." Here is housed a collection of representative items from the past: pews, kerosene lamps, wall clocks, the old organ, old hymn books, the big Bible that belonged to an earlier pastor. On the walls are pictures and plaques which relate to earlier times.

Ministers who have served are:

Robert Fleming
Jonathan Davis
W. L. Tucker



Warrenton Baptist Church, 1974

Photo: E. H. Hightowe

Charles M. Irwin
W. Arthur Kennedy
W. L. Harley
Thomas J. Beck
W. M. Verdery
H. H. Tucker
D. C. Daniel
W. M. Verdery
L. R. L. Jennings
W. L. Kilpatrick
G. W. Garner
J. W. R. Jenkins
B. F. Elliott
G. B. Wright
H. R. Chapman
W. P. Brooks
G. L. Brooks
J. L. Clegg
A. Judson Burrell
Robert Cranfill Brown
W. R. McLin
I. B. Hall
Leroy C. Brown
Donald E. Mavity
James Walton Howard
Amplus D. Howard
Edward H. Hightower

WILLIAMS CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Williams Creek Church was organized by John Thomas on December 22, 1787, with 37 members. Early history of the church tells how members were excommunicated from the church until they gave satisfaction for their actions for reasons such as suffering music and dancing in their homes, horse racing, joining Free-Masons, fighting a duel, and offering a bet. If a member, once excommunicated, returned to the church and made suitable acknowledgements, he was restored and his sins remembered against him no more.

In May, 1829, Thomas Rowe, his wife Malinda, and sister Frances Culpepper applied for letters of dismission to assist in forming a constitution in Warrenton. It is believed that this consitution was drawn up for the present Warrenton Baptist Church.

In 1834, the church members agreed that they needed a new church building and the pastor, Rev. Thornton, was to draft the plans. The old building was sold and money from its sale applied to the new building.

On August 14, 1835, 20 members made a request to be dismissed in order to constitute a church at New Providence.

Early minutes of the church tell how Joseph B. Tucker was killed by a sharp-shooter near Marietta during the War Between the States on July 2, 1864.

The church celebrated its centennial by painting the church, buying new song books, and erecting a huge brush arbor to accommodate the delegates to the Georgia Association which met there in 1897.

G. Ashton Smith was ordained to the gospel ministry on April 29, 1928, at Williams Creek Church.

Williams Creek Baptist Church from 1932 to 1975:

The year of 1937 marked the 150th anniversary of the organization of the church. This milestone in the life of Williams Creek Church was celebrated with an all-day service including special messages, homecoming of old members and friends, and a social hour with a picnic dinner.

On July 22, 1941, the Sunday School Convention of the Georgia Baptist Association met with this church. With President S. J. Bentley presiding, the theme of the meeting centered on ways to improve Sunday School work and the place of music in Bible School. In this same year timber was sold off the

church property for $8.00 per thousand feet.

In November, 1949, the church offered her pastor, Rev. M. J. Bruce, a three-month vacation to recuperate from poor health. This was his first vacation offer since he accepted the pastorate in February of 1902. Mr. Bruce resigned as pastor at the end of year 1950, concluding 49 years of dedicated, Christian leadership in the church which first called him into the ministry. He continued to be an active member of this church, taking part in church affairs until illness prevented his participation. He moved to a nursing home January 17, 1959. The scripture reference (I Timothy 4:6) on his tombstone is indeed appropriate for this minister.

For several months the church was without a pastor and services were irregular until Rev. Charles Schuff came as pastor in November, 1959. The church rejoiced to be able to have this pastor until September, 1964, when he resigned to go out of this area to a full-time church.

In December, 1964, Rev. W. C. Bentley was elected; he accepted the pastorate after being ordained into the ministry by his own church, Salem Baptist. December, 1974, finds this young minister and this very old church continuing to work together in the Master's service.

During the years the church has made changes to improve the building and grounds. The church was wired for lights when R. E. A. made it possible. New coats of paint at intervals, a new concrete porch, floor, new wire fence around the cemetery and gas heaters were improvements.

This small church has faithfully contributed to Baptist causes each year including Home, State, and Foreign Missions, Children's Home, Georgia Baptist Hospital, Georgia Associational Program of Work and Ministry to Nursing Homes.

Our annual revival includes a day for "Homecoming" when old members and families of old members come together for a worship service followed by a fellowship hour and meal at the church.

Williams Creek Church, with a membership of 14 at this time, gives thanks to God for the privilege of serving these many years – though few in number, we pray it may be His will for this church to continue in service.

WILLIAMS GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Williams Grove Baptist Church was organized in March 1873 by Rev. John Fox, Rev. Frank Brinkley, Brother Ransom Williams, Brother Lee Usury, Brother Mitchell Williams, Sister Faith Ann Usury and Brother Jeff Williams.

The pastors of the church include the following: Richard Appling, A. Pate, R. Taylor, Riley Rivey, W. H. Darden, W. B. Johnson, W. J. Jennings, R. L. Isom, W. M. Patterson, Jacob J. Cheely, J. R. Tarver, J. H. Thomas, C. P. Wright, M. C. Stephens, and W. C. Heard who has been pastor for 22 years.

The church has been in active service since its origin. Ten of its people have been called to the ministry.

An annex was built and the church remodeled in 1974, and a dedication service held in December of that year.

ANDREWS CHAPEL C. M. E. CHURCH

The beginning of this church was about 1881, when the late Flournoy Yarber would ride his little gray mule to the spot where he and others had built a brush arbor. The late Joshuah Andrews and others were a part of this group. The late Dr. W.H. Pilcher, seeing the faithful efforts of this group, purchased a parcel of land for $5.00 and because of the love and Christian affection which he had for the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church of America gave the site for the Andrews Chapel.

The church has been renovated several times. In the early 1940's, brick siding was put on. Later more siding was added and painting was done inside. In 1956, the name was changed from Colored Methodist Episcopal Church to Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Since 1881, there have been 31 pastors including the present one, Rev. Van Jacobs. There have been 27 trustees and stewards and 12 bishops.

BARNETT METHODIST CHURCH

Barnett Methodist Church was organized in 1874, and the building was constructed from 1874 to 1876. The first pastor was Rev. Frank Farris. The church was dedicated by Bishop Marvin Pierce, who was a very old man and unable to stand at the time. He remained seated for dedication.

Pastors which followed through the years since dedication were namely: Rev. Felix Brown, James L. Pierce, Albert Gray, F. P. Brown, Joe Watkins, M. N. Arnoe, W. F. Carswell, R. A. Seale, J. P. Holland, J. R. Lewis, F. W. McClesky, J. W. Bailie, L. P. Winters, H. A. Norman, W. S. Roberson, Ben Graham, J. E. Russell, Joe Bessant, J. G. Davis, G. G. Copelan, L. W. Browder, L. B. Huckaby, M. B. Whitaker, G. F. Davis, A. C. Baggardly, C. A. Reese, H. G. Garrett, H. C. Chenault, H. C. Hendricks, J. J. Sneed, R. E. Lyle, L. B. Harrell, A. T. Hind, Ralph Shea, M. M. Whitlemore, Clyde Brooks, George Meadows, Wesley Thomas, Harvey Lawhert, Ronnie Wheeless and John Smith, the present pastor.

The names of the first members were Claude Wheeler Rooker, Annie Walker Burnley, Laura Ledbetter Baker, Elizabeth Crenshaw Ledbetter, Molly Lynn Horn, Ruff Kendricks, Mollie Taylor, Benjamin Crenshaw Darden, Mrs. Willie Sharp Elliot, Rebecca Lynn, Fannie Norris Chalker. Doctor Pilcher, the father of Doctor Wyman Pilcher, was Superintendent.

Through the years the church grew, was very active, and had a very large membership. In 1952 the church building was in need of repair. Ten ladies organized a W. M. S. They became very active in home and foreign missions. They had various fund-raising projects for several years and repaired the church, added lights, heat and other modern equipment, including a new piano and new pulpit furniture. The pulpit furniture was donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Bentley in memory of Mrs. Bentley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Shields, who were former members.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Smith gave two memorial windows in memory of Mrs. Smith's parents, Mrs. Elizabeth Crenshaw Ledbetter and Mr. Thomas Jefferson Ledbetter. The first homecoming was held in 1953 and about 500 people were present. Thereafter it was held each year for six years. At these meetings old friends and members contributed generously toward the church repair, and each year the homecoming was a real pleasure and a success. Each

year thereafter the members moved away to other places and some have passed away. Now only 18 members remain.

Names of other people who were members included Johnsons, Raleys, Mayfields, Roths, Harrells, Sockwells, Allen, Smiths, Careys, Weathers, Avery, Jarrell, Thomas O'Bryant. Harrises, Sturdivant, and others. At present the oldest members are Mrs. Will Harris, 94, Mrs. Myra Carey, 86, Mr. G. T. Ledbetter 88.

This church was called the mother church of this area. It is a beautiful old building with well-kept grounds and cemetery. The land and cemetery were given by Mr. Lawrence Battle, who also donated $500 for building the church.

In later years he ordered an outstanding marble angel marker shipped from Italy to be erected at the gravesite of his daughter Lulu Battle. An old bell is in the steeple and still rings out for call to worship on first and third Sundays of each month. Rev. John Smith is pastor and lives in the parsonage in Crawfordville with his wife and eight children.

BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH

In 1873, a little band of Christians made up of Simon Hall, Peter Murry, Amanda Murry, Caliph Friend, Hannah Friend, Francis Burley, William Hall, Mary Hall and others came together and decided to try to establish a church. When they had agreed on a place, they started a brush arbor with Sunday School and prayer meeting. When it was fully agreed to have church services, they told Mr. John T. Hall about their plans and he gave them permission to go into his woods and get timber to build a church. Soon a building was made ready and dedication services for the church were held.

Improvements were made through the years, but it was in 1949 that a new church building was started and completed in 1954. Gas heat has been installed, carpet on the floor, running water to the building, and a new pulpit set purchased.

Since 1972, new pews have been bought, and an annex built and furnished.

More than 40 pastors have served the church. The present pastor is Rev. B. J. Jones, and the membership is approximately 110.

CAMAK METHODIST CHURCH

During the pastorate of Rev. T. A. Seals of the Warrenton circuit, in 1869, Dr. R. W. Hubert, local minister, who had a regular appointment at the old two-room school building in Camak, invited seekers to the Mourner's Bench. There was so great a response on that occasion that the meeting was protracted to a three-week revival, and resulted in the organization of the Camak Methodist Church, South. There were nearly 50 charter members, some coming by profession of faith, and others by letter from Macedonia and surrounding areas. The first stewards were J. H. Brinkley and A. J. Mayes.

The Sunday School was organized in 1871.

A dream of a few consecrated men and women became a reality when a frame church building was erected on property which was donated, as a building site and a cemetery, by William Mayes, Sr. As recorded, the indenture was made on February 8, 1872, between Mr. Mayes and the first official board consisting of J. H. Brinkley, A. J. Mayes, R. W. Hubert,

William M. Pilcher, T. J. Mayes, Amos Johnson, J. H. Felts, E. H. Pottle and W. M. Johnson. Rev. J. S. Embry preached the first sermon in the new sanctuary.

On March 20, 1875, the church building was wrecked by a cyclone. It was repaired and again damaged and repaired in 1887.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. Tuddie Hubert Felts of Warrenton in 1890, with Miss Donie Mayes as first president.

Camak church was on the Warrenton Circuit from its organization to the conference in 1896. At that time, it was put on Mesena Circuit. It was returned to the Norwood Circuit for three years, returned to Mesena Circuit for three years, then assigned again to Norwood Circuit for 15 years. At the conference held in Griffin in 1925, Camak Circuit was formed. This was dissolved in 1928, and the Thomson Circuit was formed which included six churches: Shiloh, White Oak, Wrightsboro, Mesena, Macedonia and Camak. It was at this time, in 1928, that the Lithonia Baptist congregation bought the church building, moved it, repaired it, and it still stands and serves them. Through the untiring efforts of Rev. Burtz and the building committee which was composed of R. T. Mayes, W. M. Moore, Sr., and E. T.Mayes, and the enthusiastic membership, the present brick structure was completed.

In 1961, the interior of the church was redecorated under the supervision of W. M. Moore, Jr., and the W. S. C. S. The result is a sanctuary where one may worship in contentment, peace, and reverence.

The Thomson Circuit was divided in 1973, and Camak, Mesena, and Macedonia became the Warren County Circuit. This circuit bought the parsonage which is located in Thomson.

Rev. Ralph Segrest became a minister from this church. He is a member of the North Georgia Conference.

Miss Susie Mayes volunteered for life service under the Woman's Missionary Council from the Camak Methodist Church. She received an appointment to China in 1931, and served there until 1951. After furlough and study, she was sent to Sarawak, Malaysia, and remained there from 1956 until her retirement in May, 1971, after 35 years of foreign service.

The Camak Methodist Church, during more than a century of existence, although few in members, has reaped a good reward and has scattered spiritual seed into the homeland and into the foreign field.

FOUNTAIN CAMP GROUND

While Warren was still a part of Wilkes County and while thousands of people were moving into this section of Georgia, came one, Jones Kendrick, and settled near Little River at what is known today as Woodruff's Mill.

Little is known of Jones Kendrick except that he owned all the land on both sides of Little River from the "Corner" to Thomson. He was thrice married, was the father of a large family, and was a Captain in the War of 1812.

Mrs. John Nisbet, a descendant of Jones Kendrick, probably a granddaughter, came into possession of large land interests. Her husband, John Nisbet, was one of the first directors of the Georgia Railroad.

Mr. and Mrs. Nisbet gave approximately 300 acres of land in Warren County for the building of a campground for religious purposes.

This land joined the lands of John Nisbet, Ambrose Heath, Ben Fuller,

Lee Byrd, the widow Embry (Mrs. J. D. McCrary) the Stith place, Jimmie Dozier and Thomas Dyer.

The deed stated that the campground should be controlled by a board of trustees, elected by the Methodist Church. It also stated that the property should revert to the descendants of the original grantors if, at anytime, it was used for any other purpose than was stated in the deed, which made provision for the building of a church, a school, and the privilege of mining for gold.

Ambrose Heath and William A. Dyer both attended the first camp meeting and neither missed a one for 50 consecutive years. Miss Salley Byrd, later, attended 55 camp meetings without missing one.

There were no services held at the campground in 1931. This was due to the severe drouth, short crops, the universal depression and financial losses.

Services were held the next year, however, and have been held every year since then.

Around 1940, the church on the campground was torn down because it was on the right of way of the paved road, and the material from the building used to rebuild two new tents that had burned.

For two years during World War II, there were only three tent holders on the campground during camp meeting week because of the fuel shortage.

In 1950, electricity was brought in, a well dug, and water run to each tent. A new public tent was built, but soon had to be discontinued because of vandalism. Two double tents were remodeled and made into a dormitory for boys and girls to stay in.

In 1974, four camping trailer sites were fixed with septic tanks dug to be ready for future campers. Plans are being made to have more camp sites as the need arises.

Since 1970, when the public tent had to be abandoned, the third Sunday in August which has always been the regular camp meeting date is homecoming for families far and near who come bringing covered dishes. Barbecue and Brunswick stew is provided.

One of the most interesting events of recent years was the marriage of Billy Dent and Elayne Shelton whose wedding ceremony was performed on the sawdust in the tabernacle in June, 1968.

It is estimated that at least a half million people have visited the campground during its existence.

JOHNSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

To tell the story of Johnson Church, one must begin with William Johnson and his family. At some time between 1750-1760, there was born to the Johnson family in South Hampton County, Virginia, a son christened William. He grew to manhood, served in the Colonial Army for two years, and married. To him and Lucy Rosannah Johnson were born eight sons and three daughters: Randolph, Amos, Lewis, Aaron, James, Sarah, Reece, Seaborn, Lucy, William, Jr., and Polly.

In the early spring of 1792, William and his brother Willis (also a discharged Revolutionary soldier) migrated to Georgia from Virginia, traveling alone on ponies. They staked out service claims in what was then known as St. Paul's Parish and later became Warren and McDuffie counties. Willis settled in what is now McDuffie, about seven or eight miles south of

Thomson, Georgia, near Sweetwater or Briar Creek. William traveled to a place about six and a half miles south of Warrenton and selected for his claim most of the territory now known as "Johnson Community." His home site was about one and a half miles south of the present Johnson Church and three-quarters of a mile west of the ford of Stamp Branch, near Rocky Comfort Creek.

The first year, both brothers built a log cabin and a crib, made and stored their crops, and then returned to Virginia for their families. In the spring of 1793, with families and possessions loaded on wagons and ponies, they again traveled south.

Upon his arrival, William found his 1792 harvest gone and his buildings burned to the gound, Apparently a party of Indians, stopping at the usual camping place on Stamp Branch on their trail from Louisville, Kentucky, to Louisville, Georgia, had discovered his home, stolen the foodstuff, and set fire to the houses. Though left without food or shelter for his family (which then included eight children), he set to work to rebuild.

William was a man of strong Christian faith. As soon as possible, he and his sons constructed a log cabin building for worship. This first church was about the size of the present sanctuary. The pulpit was placed in the middle of one side of the building, benches were made of long slabs, and light was supplied by homemade candles. All of the timbers were cut, sawed, and hewn by hand and hauled on ox carts. The structure was located near what later became the Columbus Fountain home place.

Under the influence of godly parents, two of William and Rosannah's sons became local ministers in the Methodist Church. Aaron preached forty years and Seaborn, twenty. The majority of the other sons became what was known as "exhorters." Several grandsons were called to preach. One of these, Amos Johnson, was said to be one of the most forceful preachers of his day.

It is not known exactly when Johnson Church became a part of the North Georgia Conference nor when it was assigned to the Warrenton Charge; but, according to tradition, it was in the early part of the 19th century. (In 1938, it was removed from the Warrenton Charge and place with the Norwood Circuit, where it remains today.)

Eventually, the need for relocation arose. After some discussion, the present site was selected. William Johnson (grandson of the first William) and John Smith Johnson donated ten acres of land to which six and one-half acres were later added by purchase.

In 1876, Rev. T. B. Davies, pastor of the church, acted as leader in organizing the work for building a new structure, with George Owens as contractor. The work began in 1877, and the church was completed in May 1978, with the whole community participating in the work. Early in 1879, Jim Todd, the main carpenter, contracted pneumonia from exposure during the work and died in February. He was the first person to be buried in the new cemetery.

On Saturday, May 18, Rev. John R. Parker preached the last sermon in the old church. The following day, Bishop Kavanaugh delivered the dedication sermon in the new building. Among the stewards and trustees at that time were Tillman N. Pool, William Johnson, John Smith Johnson, and Jesse E. Johnson.

Many improvements have been made through the years. In 1926-27, under

Rev. E. C. Wilson, the church was painted, carpet installed, and a new roof added. In 1933, under Rev. C. M. Haynes, Sunday School rooms were constructed. Later, through the efforts of Norton Hart, a basement furnace was installed. By 1958, more improvements were desired. These consisted of putting sheet rock on the interior and painting it, refinishing pews, providing for a choir behind the pulpit, adding four large Sunday School rooms in the rear, brick veneering the whole building, adding stained glass memorial windows and a steeple, and purchasing a new piano with organ attachments and new pulpit furniture. Dedication services were held May 15, 1960, with Rev. Earl Strickland, Augusta District Superintendent, delivering the dedication message. In the early 50's, a fellowship building was constructed on the church grounds and later was brick veneered.

In 1970, the church witnessed a great moving of the Holy Spirit among the youth of the area. During the months that followed, a team of youth, with Rev. Grady Wheeless and Eston Usry as coordinators, conducted many youth rallies in Johnson Church as well as in other churches and towns.

William Henry Norris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Lee Norris, was called into the ministry from the membership of the church. Ronnie Wheeless, son of the present pastor and his wife, was also licensed to preach from the ranks of Johnson Church. In 1974, Nona English, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson English and great, great, great granddaughter of the first William Johnson, entered full-time missionary service under the Campus Crusade for Christ. Local preachers who have served the church through the years were Seaborn Johnson, Aaron Johnson, Amos Johnson, Anthony Johnson, John R. Pate, Uriah Langford, John Purvis, W. H. Cooper, William Johnson, and Mrs. George Hogan, who preached 30 years before retiring in 1959. At the present, there are three certified lay speakers among Johnson members: Eston Usry, Roy Kitchens, and Mrs. Norman Johnson. At the next conference young Billy English, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson English, will be recommended and approved. It is significant that over half of these spiritual leaders either are direct descendants of William and Rosannah Johnson or are married to their descendants.

Regular "preaching days" have for years been second and fourth Sundays of the month. On other Sundays, various families of the congregation take turns conducting the devotional services following Sunday School.

Listed below are the ministers of the North Georgia Conference who have served the church since 1839.

Josiah Lewis, Leonard C. Peek, James Jones, A. D. Leet, W. H. Evans, W. P. Arnold, John W. Knight, Allen Turner, F. F. Reynolds, J. H. Clark, David Blalock, William J. Cotter, W. P. Clonts, William A. Florence, John W. McGahee, John H. Grogan, James M. Dickey, Thomas A. Seals, Wesley S. Smith, G. W. Hardaway, F. B. Davies, John R. Parker, W. R. Hamilton, George W. Duval, John A. Reynolds.

F. G. Hughes, L. P. Neece, John H. Mashburn, W. T. Irvine, John W. Stipe, R. P. Martin, R. Frank Easkes, Casper Wright, W. M. Wynn, J. A. Timmerman, J. T. Robins, W. A. Farriss, A. G. Shankle, C. H. Branch, Wm. R. Foote, J. M. Tumlin, J. C. Atkinson, H. C. Emory, K. Read, J. O. Brand, H. L. Hendricks, W. S. Norton, E. C. Wilson, D. P. Johnston, J. M. D. Radford, C. M. Haynes, T. H. Shackleford, W. W. Cash, W. J. Culpepper, A. T. Hind, A. P. Watkins, Lee Branham, P. H. Stokes, J. T. McCullough, Wm. L. Brackman, L. G. Cowart, J. T. Burdette, Gerald Maddox, O. J. Stucker,

Charles Storey, J. W. Lee, Jr., and our present beloved pastor who has been with us since 1969, Rev. Grady S. Wheeless.

MACEDONIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On October 12, 1855, an indenture was made between William Wall and the trustees of Macedonia Methodist Church. Mr. Wall made it clear that the land was a gift, although the sum of ten dollars was required to make the contract legal. The following trustees, Thomas J. Hardaway, Amos Johnson, Hezekiah Hunt, Walter F. Lewis, David Lowe, R. D. Hayes, and Alphus Fuller received the land as a building site for a place of worship for themselves and their successors in office.

The first church building was made of logs. Records for the next 30 years are very scanty.

The church was shaken by an earthquake in August, 1886. It was on Sunday night while a revival meeting was in progress. The weather was hot, the house was full, and many were sitting in open windows. Rev. M. W. Arnold who was referred to as a fire and brimstone preacher was preaching. Just after he had warmed up to his subject and told the congregation what destination they might expect in the hereafter if they did not mend their ways, the tremors were felt. By the time they were over, the church was empty except for three men inside the altar rail despite the fact that some of the windows had a 14-foot drop to reach the ground. Later in the year the church was remodeled.

Some pastors who served between 1888-1900 were Rev. R. A. Seal, J. F. Davis, W. T. Caldwell, and Felix Brown. In the conference year 1909-1910 Rev. A. F. Ward came as pastor. Macedonia was then part of the Mesena charge which was composed of Mesena, Fountain Church, Wrightsboro, Salem, and New Gilead. The parsonage was at Mesena, and the value of the six churches was estimated at $5,000. December 10, 1910, New Gilead was still on the charge, but at the conference of July 21, 1911, the name had been removed from the circuit.

Salem Church was transferred off the Mesena charge in the late 1920's.

By 1930, Macedonia was included in the Thomson Circuit with Camak, Mesena, Shiloh, Whiteoak, and Wrightsboro.

In 1936, Sunday School rooms were added, new pews bought, and some other minor changes made. This was the last work of any consequence until the new church was built.

In 1973, Macedonia became a member of the Warren County Circuit. Rev. Loy Scott was the first pastor and Rev. W. L. Buffington is serving at the present time.

For several years plans were made for a new church. A new location, a few hundred yards away, was obtained for the brick structure. There is a beautiful new sanctuary with new furnishings throughout. There are enough Sunday School rooms to accommodate the classes, and they can be converted into an assembly hall. The pulpit furniture was provided by James Bridges' Cabinet Shop. The building is centrally heated and air conditioned, the sanctuary carpeted, and pews upholstered. The piano is a Baldwin Console.

Jesse Reese was chairman of the building committee; other members were Earl U. Reese, Leon Reese, and Connie Thigpen.

MESENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1886-1975

On November 11, 1886 citizens of Mesena and community met with Rev. M. W. Arnold, preacher in charge of the Norwood Circuit, for the purpose of organizing a Methodist Church at Mesena.

Officers elected at this meeting were the following: J. F. Mandeville and Obediah Smith, class leaders; J. C. Johnson, church steward and secretary; J. F. McCarthy, superintendent of Sunday School; C. A. Reese, assistant superintendent of Sunday School.

A building committee was appointed of the following: B. F. Thompson, W. H. C. Ivey, J. C. Johnson, Obediah Smith, and C. A. Reese. C. A. Reese was to serve as secretary of the committee.

Eighteen (18) charter members enrolled at this meeting were:

O. S. Smith, transferred from Macedonia; J. C. Johnson, transferred from Prospect; J. F. Mandeville, transferred from Macedonia; James Mandeville, transferred from Macedonia; M. P. Smith, transferred from Macedonia; Willie Mandeville, transferred from Macedonia; J. F. McCarthy, transferred from Macedonia; Sallie Mandeville, transferred from Macedonia; Hulda M. Reese, transferred from Macedonia; Georgie A. Smith, transferred from Macedonia; Annie R. Mandeville, transferred from Macedonia; Dora A. Smith, transferred from Macedonia; Mrs. A. C. Mandeville, transferred from Macedonia; S. F. Johnson, transferred from Powelton; Fannie Johnson, transferred from Powelton; T. J. Hardaway, transferred from Boneville; C. A. Reese, transferred from Macedonia; A. M. Smith, transferred from Macedonia.

It is interesting to note that Mr. B. F. Thompson and W. H. C. Ivey were on the building committee but not charter members.

There is no official record of where the meetings were held before the church was built.

The land on which the church was built was donated by Mr. William F. Gheesling. On November 11, 1887, the deed was recorded in Deed Book I-I, Page 295, at the Warren County Court House, Warrenton, Georgia.

Mesena Methodist remained a part of the Norwood Circuit through the year 1889, at which time the Mesena Circuit was created. This circuit was composed of six churches: Mesena, Macedonia, Fountain, Wrightsboro, Pentecost, and Salem.

Pastors serving the Mesena Circuit from the year 1889 through 1926 were the following:

1889	J. F. Davis
1890	A. A. Tilley
1891	H. M. Strozier
1892	J. T. Curtis
1893, 94, 95	F. P. Brown
1896, 97	J. T. Robin
1898	S. Leak
1899, 1900	J. H. Bailey
1901	Z. Speer
1902, 03, 04	J. M. Sewell
1905	N. H. Jay
1906	W. B. Bessent

1907, 08	J. C. Adams
1909	A. F. Ward
1910, 11, 12 14	W. R. Kennedy
1915	V. A. Roark
1916, 17	G. T. Shell
1918, 19	G. L. Morgan
1920	R. A. Coleman
1921, 22	Odum Clark
1923, 24	Foster Young
1925	J. M. Guest
1926	H. D. Pace

In 1927, the Mesena Circuit was dissolved and Mesena became a part of the Thomson Circuit which was also a six-church charge composed of Mesena, Macedonia, Camak, Wrightsboro, Shilo, and Whiteoak. Pastors serving the Thomson Circuit from 1927 through 1972 were the following:

1927, 28, 29, 30	G. G. Burtz
1931, 32, 33, 34	A. P. Watkins
1935, 36	H. L. Wood
1938, 39	J. S. Hill
1940, 41	R. E. Lyle
1943	Reynolds Greene, Sr.
1944, 45, 46, 47	H. F. Barfield
1949, 50, 51	W. W. Byington
1952, 53	O J. Withrow
1954, 55, 56, 57	W. Mac Tribble, Jr.
1958	James H. Turner
1959	Charles H. Clarke, Jr.
1960, 61	Alfred L. Key
1962	Charles D. Poole
1963, 64	Herbert Chisenhall
1965, 66, 67	T. F. Ellison
1968	Freeman Porter
1969, 70, 71	Howard Odum
1972	Hugh Page

In 1973, the Thomson Circuit was divided and Mesena, Macedonia and Camak now make up the Warren County Circuit. We have been served by two pastors: Loy Scott, and W. L. Buffington.

We believe that our present sanctuary is basically the original church building. We have added four Sunday School rooms, office space, kitchen, fellowship hall, and two restrooms to the original building. The walls and ceiling of the sanctuary have been covered with sheet rock, and hardwood flooring covers the original floor. Old pews have been replaced with more comfortable ones.

When rural electricity became available, we were able to discard our kerosene lamps and enjoy electric lights. Butane gas was another great advancement. This enabled us to change from wood and coal heat to space gas heaters. We now enjoy central heat which adds greatly to the comfort of going to church.

Record dated 1897 reported financial conditions not good. However, the report said the spiritual condition was good. We would hope that it is this good spiritual condition that has kept us a church until the present time. Our financial condition still seems to be "not as good as it should be," and each will have to answer his own as to the spiritual condition.

Two members of the building committee, Mr. B. F. Thompson and Mr. C. A. Reese, have descendants on the church roll in 1974.

Descendants of Mr. B. F. Thompson are Myrom Simons Reese, great niece; Velma Simons Cheely, great niece; Mary Lee Simons Birdwell, great niece; Nancy Cheely Thompson, great-great niece; Haley Prevette Lyons, great-great niece; Curtis Smith, great-great nephew; Marsha Smith, great-great-great niece; Ricky Smith, great-great-great nephew.

Descendants of C. A. Reese are Walter Reese, grandson; Roy Reese, grandson; Maggie Lois Reese, great-granddaughter; L. D. Reese, great grandson.

MT. ALDRED C. M. E. CHURCH

The Mt. Aldred C. M. E. Church was organzied in 1880 about 3½ miles from where it now stands at a place called Bunker's Hill. It was organized under a brush arbor. Those present during the organizing were: Brother Green Aldred, Brother Jefferson Bradshaw, Sister Rosie Bradshaw, Brother W. E. McNair, and others. They worshipped at Bunker's Hill for 2½ years. Later, Rev. Henry Aldred donated one acre of land to build the church where the old church now stands.

Since the Mt. Aldred C. M. E. Church was organized, 30 presiders have served us – Elder E. T. Ashmore being the present presiding elder.

Mt. Aldred C. M. E. Church has been served by 22 pastors. Rev. Willie Crews is the present pastor.

Twelve members of this church have been called to preach; only two of those are still living.

Our present church was built in 1970, and we have a membership of about 250.

NEW HOPE A. M. E. CHURCH

New Hope A. M. E. Church was organized in 1868 in Warren County about three miles west of Mesena, Georgia, by Rev. C. A. McCain under a brush arbor. Some years later it was moved to Mesena, Georgia, and a building was erected on the present site.

New Hope is a part of the Sixth Episcopal District. The present pastor is Rev. M. Myles; Presiding Elder is Dr. C. E. Shepheard; the Presiding Bishop is Right Reverend Richard Allen Hildebrand.

NORWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

As early as 1880, a union Sunday School was held in the schoolhouse located opposite the present Norwood Baptist Church with Thomas C. Newton as superintendent. In 1881, the Norwood Methodist Church was organized in this school house.

On February 14, 1882, Flavius H. McGinty of Warren County deeded 3,900 sq. yd. of land to A. M. Massengale, John H. Hall, V. A. McGinty, T.

E. Massengale, and James A. Scruggs, trustees, to be used as a place of divine worship for the ministry and membership of the Norwood Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This deed is recorded in the office of the clerk of Superior Court of Warren County, Deed Book DD, page 417.

While a building was being erected on this lot, Sunday School continued to be held in the schoolhouse. The structure was completed and dedicated in 1882 by Rev. H. H. Parker, and Rev. W. T. Hamilton served as first pastor.

Some of the charter members were the following: Rev. J. M. Armstrong, his wife, and two daughters; Mr. and Mrs. James A. Scruggs; Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Massengale; Mr. and Mrs. A. Murray Massengale; John Beall; Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hall; Mr. and Mrs. John M. Heath; Dr. W. H. Pilcher; V. V. Hill; Dr. and Mrs. Noel Darden.

The Woman's Missionary Society (known as the Woman's Society of Christian Service since unification in 1939) and now the United Methodist Women was organized in 1884 by the pastor, Rev. M. W. Arnold, and Mrs. Crawford, an ardent Missionary worker from Greene County. From that day to this it has never ceased to exist. Mrs. Mary C. Massengale was one of the most faithful and devout presidents of this organization though not among the first. Mrs. Claude M. Swain serves as president today.

A Juvenile Society was begun in the early 1880's. Mrs. Carrie Aldred, Mrs. Bedenheimer, and Mrs. J. C. Evans were some of the early lady managers. At one time, this Society clothed an Indian girl. In the 1930's, the Society was disbanded because of the small number of children living in Norwood.

For many years the Epworth League (Youth Fellowship since unification) was very active. At intervals this group has been unable to carry on because of a scarcity of young people; however, it has been the means of bringing many young people into the church.

The first church edifice was used for only a few years after which it was sold to the Negroes to be used by them as a place of worship. The present church house was erected on the same site as the first in 1890. It was dedicated by Rev. Lundy Harris, husband of Corra Harris.

Down through the years, repairs have been made and in the early 1950's, a second building was added to the church grounds. This structure was built to be used for Sunday School rooms and as a community center.

During most of the years since organization, the Norwood Church has been in the Augusta District; however, for a short while it was placed in the Athens District.

Recent improvements in the church building include stained glass memorial windows which were dedicated on November 5, 1972, a new roof and carpet given by the church members, and new pews as a memorial gift to Mrs. Kate Heath and Mr. Barney Heath dedicated on June 8, 1975.

The following pastors have served the Norwood Church:

1882	W. T. Hamilton
1883	F. P. Brown
1884-85-86-87	Miles W. Arnold
1888	W. T. Caldwell
1889-90-91	Robert A. Seale
1892	J. B. Holland
1893-94	A. J. Hughes
1895-96-97	E. B. Reese

1898	J. S. Embry
1899	J. B. Holland (returned)
1900-01	J. A. Timmerman
1902-03	Oscar L. Kelley
1904-05	W. A. Farris
1906-07-08	R. W. Rogers
1909-	J. R. Allen
1910	J. W. Bailey
1911-12-13	Firley Baum
1914-15	J. M. Fowler
1916-17	C. F. Hughes
1918-19	W. O. Butler
1920	F. A. Ragsdale
1921-22-23-24	J. E. Russell
1925-26-27	C. A. Reese
1928	H. G. Garrett
1929	W. J. Bryson and Fred Chenault
1930	H. S. Zoeller
1931-32-33-34	W. F. Lunsford
1935-36-37	V. B. Hamrick
1938-39	W. J. Culpepper
1940-41-43	A. T. Hind
1943-44-45-46	A. P. Watkins
1947-48	Lee Branham, Jr.
1949	P. H. Stokes
1950-51-52	T. J. McCollough
1953-54	Bill Brackman
1955	L. G. Cowart
1960-61	Gerlad H. Maddox
1962-63-64	O. J. Stucker
1965	Charles Storey
1966-67-68	J. W. Lee
1969-70-71-72-73-74-75	G. S. Wheeless

PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

After a meeting held in 1845 concerning the need of a church for the Prospect community, the following trustees were named: David Felts, John Felts, William R. Low, Henry Heath, James Swain, and Henry Baker. They unanimously approved for a building site a tract of land belonging to Amos Johnson. The land was purchased for $20 on February 4, 1846. After a period of 25 years, in 1871, the original deed was superceded by a deed whereby the legatees of Amos Johnson deeded land to the trustees of Prospect. This is the same land on which Prospect Methodist Church now stands.

The building was begun in 1846 and was completed before the end of the year. It was rather large and faced a northerly direction with two doors at the front and two at the rear. A cemetery was placed at the rear of the building.

A great number of citizens throughout the community joined the church and attended services in buggies, wagons, on horseback, and on foot.

A Sunday School was organized 20 years later with Dr. W. H. Pilcher as its first superintendent and Captain W. W. Swain, secretary.

It was in 1878 that the people realized that the community was in need of a good school, and it was decided to erect one on the grounds of Prospect Church. When completed, the building consisted of two large rooms and was situated on the same side of the road as the church. The rooms were connected with double doors so that one large room could be formed by opening them. The school was known as Brinkley Academy. Professor Sterling Brinkley and Mrs. Jack Swain were the first teachers. The first term opened in January 1879, with 111 students enrolled.

After the organization and subsequent building of a school in Norwood, many students transferred to Norwood school because of convenience of location, so a smaller school building was erected and the larger one sold as a tenant house.

In 1879, the school trustees, church members, citizens and friends agreed to build a new church building which was very much needed. The old building was sold to membership of St. James Church (a Negro church) for $160.00, and the other money for the new church raised. Rev. W. H. Pilcher was chairman of the building committee. The first service in the new church was in January, 1880.

At this time, Prospect Church was in the Warrenton Circuit.

In 1882, the Methodist Church in Norwood was constructed and a large number of Prospect members transferred their membership to Norwood.

In 1893, the North Georgia Conference separated Prospect Church from the Norwood Circuit and together with Powelton, Barnett, and Crawfordville, it was placed in a circuit known as Crawfordville Circuit. Seven years later it was again placed in the Norwood Circuit.

In 1908, the church building needed repair and was covered with shingles, and the cemetery enclosed with heavy wire fence with granite posts.

Mr. E. T. Johnson had been superintendent of the Sunday School for many years. He and his wife, Mrs. Mary Will Johnson, were great workers in the church, Sunday School, and day school. After their deaths, Mr. James M. Johnson, Mr. James Harper, Mr. Palmer Harper, and Mrs. Inez Tucker were superintendents of the Sunday School.

In 1932, the church was covered with metal shingles. Mr. Hal Baker donated the material.

In 1924, at the Griffin Conference, Prospect was placed in the Camak Circuit, and in 1928, was changed to the Thomson Circuit. It was this same year that the schoolhouse was disassembled and sold to Rev. C. A. Reese and Mr. Louis Anderson. They moved it to Norwood to be used as a dwelling house.

The trustees sold the timber on the church property in 1936 and used the money to build a church porch.

It was in 1954 when the church building again needed numerous repairs. A committee composed of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Shivers, Sr., Mr. Olin Johnson, Mrs. Lulie Chafin, and Mrs. Joe M. Harris was appointed to investigate and decide what was needed. The church was almost made over. Two years earlier electric lights had been installed to replace the old kerosene and gas lamps. Two acres of land across the road from the church were sold and money from the sale used to paint the roof.

Homecoming, which was held August 7, 1955, is the only one the church

has ever observed. At this time the church had been organized 100 years. Rev. L. G. Cowart was the minister at the time.

Within the last few years, the roof has been repaired, a new fence installed around the cemetery, and the church painted. The membership has been reduced to about 25, but Prospect has met all of its obligations and 60% to 80% of the members attend church regularly.

Pastors who have served the church since its organization include William A. Florence, Jim Dickey, H. P. Davis, J. A. Reynolds, J. R. Parker, S. Leak, J. B. Holland, R. R. Lewis, E. B. Reese, J. L. Embry, W. G. Robin, J. A. Timmerman, O. L. Kelley, W. C. Parris, R. W. Rogers, J. R. Allen, J. W. Bartley, Firley Baum, J. M. Flower, C. F. Hughes, W. O. Butler, F. A. Ragsdale, J. E. Russell, C. A. Reese, J. M. Guest, H. D. Pace, C. G. Burtz, H. C. Zoeller, W. F. Lunceford, W. J. Culpepper, V. B. Hambrick, Clyde Brooks, A. T. Hind, P. H. Stokes. J. R. Watkins, Lee Branham, Jack McCullough, Bill Brackman, L. G. Cowart, J. T. Burdette, Gerald Maddox, O. J. Stucker, Charlton Story, J. W. Lee, and G. S. Wheeless, the present pastor.

ST. JOHN A. M. E.

This church was established in January 1890, and is located in Norwood, Georgia. The land was purchased from Mrs. Sara E. Massengale. The first pastor was Rev. Neely. The first building was destroyed by a storm and in 1911 a new building was constructed.

In all, there have been 23 pastors, the present one being Rev. A. L. Brown. The church has about 50 members with five stewards and eight auxiliaries.

In recent years the church has been redecorated, new modern pews and pulpit furniture have been added. The floors are fully carpeted.

Meeting day is the first Sunday in each month. There are services every fourth Sunday night.

SANDY GROVE A. M. E. CHURCH

The members of the Sandy Grove A. M. E. Church worshiped under brush arbors and attended Johnson Methodist Church for a long time. A few faithful believers in Christ wanted a place to worship so in 1875 a piece of land was given to the trustees by the late C. F. Johnson as a building site. Later the church bought another piece of land from C. F. Johnson as a place where they wished to build a church. In 1911 they built a new church.

Throughout the years the members did various things to add to the attractiveness of the church. An electric clock, a large cross, and carpeting were given by Brother Brady Allen of Brooklyn, New York.

Since its beginning, the church has had 39 pastors, 19 presiding elders, and eight bishops.

A large number of the members of this church have moved to other parts of the country. If they have kept the faith as we hope they have, then the church has had a wide influence.

STONE CHAPEL A. M. E.

No information available for this church.

TRINITY A. M. E. CHURCH

This church was organized in 1866 by the late Rev. Robert Crumbley. The first church building was erected approximately 200 yards from the present site on Norwood Street in Warrenton.

Trinity, in the Sixth Episcopal District and the Augusta Conference, has had eight bishops, 18 presiding elders and 49 pastors. There has been a host of local church organizations, stewards, local trustees,stewardesses, and class leaders. Eight members from Trinity have been ordained into the ministry.

The present pastor, Rev. Austin L. Burnett, is serving his 14th annual conference term at Trinity. He has been loyal, devoted, and sincere in his promotion of Christian development and growth, both in the collective life of the church and in the personal experiences of every member.

WALKER'S CHAPEL C. M. E. CHURCH

The land on which the Norwood C. M. E. Church was built and now stands was given by the late John H. Hall in honor of Julia Person (or Elliott) who belonged to him before the War Between the States. After she was freed, she stayed on with the Hall family until her death in 1895. The church was built about 1887 and was named fon Rev. Walker.

Recently the church has constructed a new building near the old structure. Rev. Jacobs is the present pastor. The church has had 21 pastors in all and 15 presiding elders. The church cooperates with local and charitable organizations.

WARRENTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Facts concerning the earliest history of Methodism in Warren County are rather obscure, but it is known that Methodists were preaching as early as 1788 in the territory which later became Warren County. The first Methodist Church seems to have been built in 1797, according to a deed on page 415 in deed book "A" in the office of the clerk of court of Warren County, in which Solomon Newsome, Sr., gave to Arthur Mathews "one acre of land to be laid out convenient for a meeting house near or adjoining land of said Arthur Mathews for a Methodist Society." Another deed in 1805 shows property being sold to build a Methodist Church near Warrenton, and still another deed conveyed land on which to build a church to be used by Methodists, Baptist, Presbyterians, or any other sect that preached the gospel.

The Richmond Circuit which included Richmond, Columbia, Lincoln, and finally Warren Counties was formed in 1788. When the Oconee Circuit was formed in 1793, Warren was moved to it, and in 1805 was transferred to the Ogeechee Circuit. Upon dismemberment of this circuit the next year, Warren was put in the Louisville Circuit where it remained until the Warren Circuit was formed. These circuits were served by traveling preachers known as Circuit Riders. In some places, because of the large area each one served, services were held once a month; in remote areas, only once a quarter. As the years went by and more preachers were available, the circuits were made smaller and preaching services became more often. In 1834, the Warrenton Circuit came into existence and remains to the present day.

The first Methodist Church in Warrenton was built on the other side of the railroad from the courthouse, and the cemetery which is designated as the "Old Cemetery" was in the rear of the church. This church served as a "Methodist Meeting House" until after the War Between the States. The earliest authentic data regarding the Sunday School work of the Warrenton Methodist Church antedates the war years.

When the Macon to Camak branch of the Georgia Railroad was built, the church was torn down and moved to the site where the present church now stands. The Georgia Railroad bank sold for $5.00 one acre of land on which to rebuild the church of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. There is a rather odd reservation to this deed which states that "The Georgia Railroad Banking Company retained forever the right to vend alcoholic spirits or liquors on the premises."

On the night of January 4, 1904, this church burned. This was during Rev. I. T. Robins' pastorate, and he set about immediately to rebuild. With an able building committee, the present edifice was completed before the second and last year of this pastorate ended. Bishop Warren A. Candler laid the cornerstone.

In 1915, a parsonage was built on Main Street for the Warrenton charge.

Warrenton Church became a full-time station church in 1938.

A Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1885 with 25 charter members, and has been in existence since that time.

In the early 1930's, the church realized that the Sunday School had outgrown its quarters, but because of the financial depression, felt unable to enlarge its facilities. Rev. Claude Haynes who was pastor, did not give up easily. He was convinced that the Lord had spared his life for a purpose when he did not die of a bullet wound in the head in the Battle of France during World War I. On April 7, 1933, at the second quarterly conference, with W. T. Lockett as secretary, the Committee on Christian Education and Rev. Haynes were appointed as a building committee and given the authority to collect and spend money for the erection of a Sunday School annex. With volunteer help of all ages, the work was reported finished at the Fourth Quarterly Conference – that the Haynes Memorial building was in operation as an educational annex with 225 members and 19 officers and teachers.

In 1948, when Lee Branham was pastor, the Sunday School situation was again such that there were more students than rooms to teach them. In 1949, a contract was let for building a fellowship hall, kitchen, nine classrooms, and two restrooms. At this time the church sanctuary was painted.

In 1955, the parsonage on Main Street was sold to Mr. J. H. Truitt and a seven-room brick parsonage erected on North Whitehead Street.

When Rev. Harold Smith became pastor in 1967, the Sunday School had again outgrown its quarters and the sanctuary badly in need of repair. Again a building program was begun. The fellowship hall and kitchen were enlarged by taking out partitions of three classrooms, the Haynes Memorial building torn down, and six new, larger classrooms, a nursery, and a pastor's study were built, and the sanctuary of the church remodeled and refurnished. The cost of this work was approximately $90,000.00. Jack Haynes, the architect for the job, is the son of Rev. Claude Haynes.

The present membership of the church carries many original family names of those whose love and devotion have made the Warrenton First United

Methodist Church one of Methodism's leaders.

Ministers who have served during this century are:

1901-02	W. M. Wynn
1903	J. A. Timmerman
1904-05	J. T. Robins
1906	A. G. Shankle
1907-08	C. H. Branch
1909-10	W. R. Foote
1911-12	J. M. Tumlin
1913-14	J. C. Atkinson
1915-16-17	H. C. Emory
1918	K. Read
1919-20	J. O. Brand
1921-22-23	H. L. Hendricks
1924-25-26	W. S. Norton
1927-28	E. C. Wilson
1929-30	D. P. Johnston
1931	J. M. Badford
1931-33	C. M. Haynes
1933-35	T. H. Shackelford
1935-37	W. W. Cash
1937-38	E. G. Thomason
1938	Allen C. Budd
1942-44	Parks Segars
1944-48	J. W. Brinsfield
1948-52	Lee Branham
1952-54	W. J. Culpepper
1954-57	J. W. Scarborough
1957-60	J. S. McDonald
1960-62	H. A. McNeil
1962-67	H. H. Dillard
1967-71	Harold Smith
1971-	Leo Burgess

PRAYER MISSION

Prayer Mission, located on Route 1, Norwood, Georgia, is not a church. As the name implies, it is a place for Sunday School and prayer services. If a person is called to repentance while associated with the Prayer Mission, its leader, Rev. Rosa Collier, sends him to a church of his choice.

Prayer Mission has been organized for eleven years.

MARTIN TABERNACLE FREE CHURCH

This church located on the Atkinsville Road in Warren County was established in 1970. About fifty people make up the membership of the church. The pastor is Rev. J. B. Martin.

SHOALS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

According to information from the State Archives, furnished by Mr.

Hunter Coleman, a Methodist Church was built in the Shoals community by some of the earliest settlers of the community. It is believed that it was Louisa Cheely Coleman, wife of Henry Coleman, who organized the church. For many years it was a very active church, a part of the North Georgia Conference, with preaching services on each third Sunday and Sunday School every Sunday.

As time passed and the older people passed away and the younger element moved away, the church was forced to close its doors in 1948.

Seventeen years later, the Primitive Baptist Church in Avera, Georgia, obtained permission to use the building for an arm church in this area. For ten years this church has been active, holding services on the first Sunday in each month. Rev. Gordon Love is minister of the church. This is the only church of this denomination in Warren County.

WILKES TEMPLE CHURCH

The church began in the early part of 1943. It started as a mission. Three people: Mother Earlie Edwards, Mother Alice Heard and Sister Annie P. Shaw were present. In 1947, the late Bishop F. W. Winians came and dedicated this Church of God in Christ. Elder E. J. Jones of Macon, Georgia, came to help us and then Elder Jones Wilkes was sent to pastor us. Services were being held at Norwood, Camak and Warrenton.

As time passed and the church grew, the Lord laid it on the heart of our pastor to get a settled place for worship. In 1953, we bought the Tad Baptist Church, Warrenton. We had 15 members on roll at this time who agreed to name the church after the man that labored so well with us, Elder James Wilkes -- Wilkes Temple Church of God in Christ.

After a time we added bathrooms, remodeled the inside, purchased new pews, and just recently started the addition of a pastor's study, deacon's room and kitchen, dining room and lounge. Truly the Lord has blessed us.

THE CRADLE OF CATHOLICITY IN GEORGIA

Far away from the sight and sound of men, in the shadowy stillness of a southern forest lies a little country graveyard. Rough rock walls enclose the consecrated acre seamed with innumerable hillocks half hidden by russet leaves from the hoary oaks and by the creeping myrtle and ivy filling each nook and crevice. A tall cross fashioned of rude timbers, stands sentinel just within the heavy gates, while without the walls, a few yards away, a clear stream, sparkling and dimpling over shining white rocks, ever murmuring a gentle requiem for the quiet sleepers. Their silence is seldom broken by any other sound, as many years have passed since the last grave opened to receive an occupant, and, probably, never again will the sods be turned to give a man his six feet of earth. The tottering, discolored gravestones bear names loved and honored throughout the land; and the silent slumberers beneath them earned well their peaceful rest. For here lie men and women who, to preserve their birthright of the Faith, abandoned their native land and sought homes among strangers in a strange land; and here those sturdy pioneers, 100 years ago, felled the trees, hewed the logs, and reared the first Catholic Church ever built on Georgia soil. Here close beside their last resting-place,

separated only by the rippling stream, is the sacred spot, hallowed as the birth-place of Catholicity in the Empire State of the South.

The builders chose for their little log structure (the Cradle of faith) a site as beautiful as nature could afford in a lavish of her charms, a spot where she could supply the grandeur and magnificence they desired, but could not give, to their humble little temple.

In an opening of the forest, a deep strong spring empties its cool waters over great flat rocks into a tiny stream which broadens and circles prettily around an elevated grassy slope separating it from the forest paths. Upon this slope, within this sanctuary of nature's forming, they placed their little church, as if their thought was to make it the tabernacle in Nature's Temple. Its lowly roof and rude walls were to shelter the King of Kings, and if within there were no rare tapestries, no fluted columns nor groined arches, without a velvety carpet of rich green stretched from its threshold to the water's edge; huge oaks and stalwart pines upheld a canopied roof of intermingled branches and the arching limbs cast soft shadows athwart the "dim religious light" of the leaf strewn aisles. Golden-hearted Cherokee roses climbed with the dainty sweet-briar, the wild pink honey-suckle, and white-robed dog-wood, and peeped through the dark foliage of oak and pine like the changing tints of cathedral windows. Fragrant forest flowers incensed the air and wooed the honey bees from distant hives to lend their soft humming accompaniment to the joyous choir of feathered songsters and the sweet solemn music of the wind among the pines.

On every side the fair locusts were in flower, heavy with their milky, sweet-scented blossoms, and the new-comers named this favored spot "Locust Grove." The dear old name, the name by which the great Bishop England knew it, will go down with it into history, notwithstanding that the monarchs of the age, steel and steam, now call it by another name.

It is Right Rev. Dr. England who first tells us about the settlement. After speaking of the consecration of Right Rev. John Carroll in 1790 as Bishop of Baltimore, which diocese then comprehended the whole United States of America, he says:

"About this period a few Catholics from Maryland removed to the State of Georgia, to the vicinity of where the Church of Locust Grove was subsequently built. Previous to their removal, they applied to the bishop for a clergyman to accompany them, but were unable to obtain this blessing; yet was the spot on which they settled destined to be that from which the Catholic Church in that state should date its origin."

"At the time of the Revolution," he says on another occasion, "Maryland was no longer a Catholic settlement. The descendants of Lord Baltimore had abandoned their religion, and very few of the Catholic families had preserved their faith, or their property from confiscation."

Such was the situation of what began as the Catholic Colony in the state. As many as could of those who remained faithful to their religion emigrated to other states, thereby spreading the faith which their enemies were seeking to crush.

One-hundred years have passed since the band of Maryland Colonists, fleeing from persecution and robbery, found peaceful homes on Georgia soil and freedom to worship God as their hearts desired. Settling as they did, in the interior of the state, 62 miles north of Augusta and more than double that distance from Savannah, now the Cathedral City of the diocese, it seems

somewhat remarkable that here should have been the spot chosen by God to cradle the infant church, which has attained so strong and vigorous a growth throughout the state. These Maryland Catholics, forced to quit their native state, were mostly families of wealth and culture. They were, more-over, large slave-holders, and doubtless came into the interior to avoid the fever which devastated many sections, and also to purchase extensive tracts of land in the fertile counties of Wilkes and Warren. Among the colonists was a branch of the "Stonestreets of Maryland," to which belonged Father Stonestreet S. J. of Georgetown.

There were also the Lucketts, Scotts, Hargraves, Thompsons, Brooks and many others yet remembered and revered.

They were prosperous and well content in their new homes. The lands gave abundant yield, and the owners found ample protection in the liberal constitution of their adopted state; for though when Georgia was a British Colony the spirit of the British Code of persecution domineered in full vigor over the land, after the Revolution, Georgia was one of the first states to establish religious freedom and continued to be most strenuous in its defense.

Their many neighbors, mostly Virginians, with many French Huguenots and English Presbyterians, received them in friendly spirit and showed no bigotry or hostility.

There came, however, for a long time, no improvement in their spiritual needs. While they were free to worship, there was no priest to offer the sacrament. Mention is made of a Rev. M. O'Reilly, who visited the state in 1794 and remained a short while there; then, in 1797, a Rev. M. LeMercier; but it was not until 1800 or thereabout, that they had a priest to remain any length of time. This was a Rev. Mr. Souze of Sujet, who came with some exiled French families from San Domingo.

The French Revolution, which drove from their shores some of the best of the French clergy who could escape the guillotine and the pike, furnished laborers for the church in the northern part of the United State; but it was only when the effects were felt in the French colony of San Domingo that the Southern States profited by it. When the revolted Negroes caused the colonists to fly to the United States, many of them settled in Charleston, Savannah, and Augusta, and some found their way, with one of their priests to the little Maryland colony. With the authority of Bishop Carroll he began to discharge the duties of his ministry. Then was the little log church built and the cemetery enclosed nearby. It was at a much later period that a small frame church was erected in Savannah, and later still (1810) the church in Augusta. These places being nearer to Charleston and more accessible than the Maryland Colony, fared better, in after times, for spiritual attention; and finally when the Rev. Souze quitted the state, Locust Grove was again left desolate and was visited only at long interval by a priest who attended Augusta.

Notwithstanding this long privation of the ministration of religion, very few fell away from the church, and, more remarkable, fewer still contracted mixed marriages.

After 40 years from the time of their advent in Georgia, Right Rev. Dr. England, at a convention of the church held in Augusta, spoke these words in praise to their fidelity: "About 40 years ago, a small body of the remnant that was in Maryland still faithful to the altars of their fathers and their God, and having, with the illustrious Carroll, hazarded their lives and fortunes and

sustained their sacred honor in the struggle for independence, removed into that part of Georgia where their children are now found. There in the woods, they practiced as well as they could a church, without a priest, without an altar, the duties of their religion. There was our first church in this state subsequently erected, where they also had occasionally the offices of religion; but there, also, for years they beheld the gates of their temple closed, but still cherished in their bosom the hope that one day it would be reopened.

"Upward of 14 years have elapsed since I first stood among them, with a heart filled with emotions of admiration for their fidelity and of deep interest of their welfare. I found only one priest in the State of Georgia. He then ministered at this Altar (Augusta). Upon his departure for another state, Savannah having been deserted, I was asked to provide a ministry. I was charged with more than the care of Georgia. On every side children cried to me for bread, and I had no one to assist me in breaking it to them."

On the arrival of Bishop England in 1821, immediately after his consecration, he found only two priests doing duty, one at Charleston and one in Augusta. He visited Locust Grove and remained several days. The zealous Bishop encouraged the congregation to repair their church and promised them a pastor. The original colony had been greatly increased by a number of Irish families; and in 1821, shortly after the Bishop's visit, the log church was torn down and replaced by a neat frame building, erected within the walls of the burial ground, and not on the site of the first church. It was dedicated to the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Bishop sent them a pastor the next year, as is shown by an old book now in possession of Rev. A. J. Semmes (since dead) Sharon, Ga., in which it is recorded in Bishop England's own business like hand-writing over his official signature the appointment of Rev. Francis O'Donoghue to the charge of the counties of Wilkes and Warren, and a brief account of the church, also written by the Bishop. Below we give the extract copied from this old book, the first registry of Locust Grove Church:

"The counties of Warren and Wilkes, were by me placed under the special charge of Rev. Francis O'Donoghue, on the first day of December, 1822."

"John, Bishop of Charleston."

In the year of 1790, Right Rev. Doctor Carroll was appointed and consecrated first Bishop of Baltimore, with jurisdiction over the United States of America, in which Union the State of Georgia was represented.

In the year 1794, Rev. Mr. O'Reilly visited the state and remained for a short time in the vicinity of Warren, Wilkes and Columbia. In the year 1797, Rev. Le Mercier visited the same place. Rev. Mr. Souze arrived about the end of the year 1800 or the beginning of 1801. A log church was then built and a cemetery laid out and enclosed. In about 17 months' time, he departed from the state.

In the year 1818, Baltimore was raised to an archdiocese of which Georgia still continued a part. The duties of Warren and Wilkes, etc., were performed by the priests of Augusta.

In the year 1820, the Diocese of Charleston was created, and Right Rev. Dr. John England was appointed and consecrated first Bishop there. Georgia was part of this diocese. In the latter part of January, 1821, the Bishop first visited Warren and Wilkes, etc. In that year, the old church was taken down and a frame building erected. Rev. Francis O'Donoghue continued until the end of 1823.

On the 8th of December, 1823, Rev. Patrick O'Sullivan was appointed to take charge.

We find from this registry that Bishop England visited Locust Grove 13 times from 1821 to 1839, which shows the marvelous zeal and activity of the holy Bishop, and that he was indeed interested in this little colony, when we consider the great difficulty of travel in those ante-railroad days and the extensive territory he had to overlook, the two Carolinas, Georgia and Florida.

These visits of the Bishop were occasions of great rejoicing and were looked forward to with eagerness and pleasure.

Each family desired the honor of entertaining the beloved Bishop and so important an event it was considered that a record was duly kept, along with the church affairs, of where the Bishop dined, and of the guests present at the dining, after this fashion:

"Rt. Rev. Dr. John England arrived on Thursday, 10th. He was met at "Double Wells" (Barnett) by the vestrymen, Sylvester Luckett, Bradford Thompson, Ignatius Semmes, and Hugh Ward. Mrs. Cratin's carriage was sent to convey the Bishop. The Rt. Rev. Bishop dined at the hospitality board of Dr. Ignatius Semmes, in company with the following guests, etc. In the afternoon Mrs. Cratin's carriage came to convey the Bishop to her home, where he partook of her hospitality. Many guests were present to meet the distinguished prelate."

Far and wide, into all the neighboring counties, the word went abroad when the Catholic Bishop was to preach and so large were the crowds of all denominations who came to see and to hear the eloquent divine, the little church could not hold the half of them. The Bishop, therefore, spoke from the church door. A brush arbor was built outside, logs rolled under, planks laid across for seats; and in this primitive style, in the open air, the varied audience listened for two or three hours, unwearied and even regretful when the golden-tongued orator brought his discourse to a close.

The length of the sermon and the unflagging interest of the hearers, which were duly recorded in the old book, in comparison with these days when people scarce sit patiently through a five minute sermon, evoked the silent comment;

"They must certainly have been hungry for the Word of God." His children were, indeed, hungry for bread after their long spiritual starvation; and their Bishop, true Father, wearied not in breaking it to them. He labored incessantly among them, preaching, teaching, baptizing, confirming, marrying and remarrying, or witnessing marriages which had been previously contracted before a magistrate, when no priest could be had.

The pages of the old registry contain many curious records. There are whole pages devoted to the baptisms and marriages of slaves, showing that these Catholic masters were not neglectful of the spiritual welfare of these poor souls. The number of Easter and Christmas communions includes black as well as whites. The names of the vestrymen and church wardens are recorded. Therein also are found the autographs of four bishops besides that of the illustrious Dr. England; namely Rt. Rev. William Clancy, Coadjutor Bishop, who made two visitations in 1836 and 1837 in the absence of Dr. England; Rt. Rev. Ignatius A. Reynolds, who made his first visitation in 1844 as successor of Bishop England and second Bishop of Charleston; Rev. John Barry and Rev. Andrew Byrne, afterwards Bishops, the former being

the second Bishop of Georgia, after the division of the diocese, and the latter the first Bishop of Little Rock, Arkansas. Both of these priests were ordained by Bishop England. Rev. A. Byrne was the first student in the Bishop's College in Charleston.

It is interesting to note the many French names in the old registry here in the heart of Georgia. Victorine and Emilia Menard, James Rossignold Belliance, Paul Rossignol, James DePerry, Frances Ville Printeare, Paul Delancy; also names of the slaves owned by these French families, Jean Baptist, Melicitas, Marie Claire, Marie Sainte, Juliette, Marie Anne, alongside the George Washingtons, Solomons, Nancys and Marthas, slaves of the English speaking settlers.

The registrations from the several counties visited by the mission priests show that many French families were also scattered through the state.

The first convention of the Catholic church in Georgia was held in Augusta, April 2nd, 1826. There were only three churches in the State; Holy Trinity (St. Patrick) Augusta, Ga., St. John the Baptist, Savannah, and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Locust Grove. In the convention each church was represented by two lay delegates. One of the delegates from the church of Locust Grove was made President. The first action of these lay delegates was the choice of a patron saint for the State, as it appears in the minutes:

The house of Lay delegates, by ballot, selected St. Peter, the Apostle as patron saint of the State of Georgia.

Robert Dellow, President.

Francis Shiels, Secretary.

Admitted by the Clergy:

Rev. Edward Swiney, President.

Rev. Godfrey Sheehan, Secretary.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop was present at the convention and with him two priests from Charleston and three from Georgia. Rev. Patrick O'Sullivan was at that time pastor of Locust Grove. He remained until 1829, when Rev. M. C. O'Reilly was placed in charge and devoted himself exclusively to that church for eight years. Revs. Andrew Byrne, Gregory Duggan, and John Barry, ordained by Bishop England, were on the missions and frequently at Locust Grove.

In 1837, Rev. Peter Whelan began his ministrations here and occupied the little log parsonage for 18 years. He was called the "farmer priest," and he did not disdain to follow the plow and handle the spade himself. His farming operations, which he always made successful, did not, however, interfere with the laborious duties of his ministry, and it is said of him that during his priesthood he never, by his fault, lost a patient unprepared, omitted an office, or missed a Mass.

It is this remarkable man and devoted priest to whose memory Dr. O'Connell pays a beautiful tribute in the "History of Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia." Father Peter Whelan was called to Savannah in 1855 and afterwards made vicar-general of the diocese under Bishop Barry. His removal from Locust Grove was a loss and sorrow from which the congregation never wholly recovered.

Under the care of such faithful clergy – "Bishop England's priests" as they were affectionately and proudly designated – the colony and congregation grew and flourished. The fame of the beautiful old mission

spread to distant parts; and no priest or prelate visiting the state failed to spend a day or more at Locust Grove. The grand apostle of temperance, Father Theobald Mathew, found his way to the Maryland colony, and William Smith O'Brien, the Irish patriot exile. Excellent schools were in operation, well attended by all denominations, although established by the Catholics.

It was at Locust Grove Academy that many of Georgia's most prominent men received their early training, among them Alexander H. Stephens; his brother, Linton Stephens; and Herschel V. Johnson.

Many of the sons and daughters of the Marylanders were sent to Georgetown, Columbia, and Charleston, and the culture and the refinement of the first settlers descended to their children's children.

The comfortable circumstances of the planters, their simple, fervent faith, the genuine and generous hosptitality given and partaken in true Christian spirit made this spot a Georgian Arcadia.

But there came invaders to this inland "Grand Pre" – marvelous tales of the wonderful fertility and fabulous yields of the lands in the Mississippi Valley. A fever of immigration, like unto the gold fever which peopled California, disturbed the peaceful serenity of Locust Grove. The spirit of unrest took possession of the younger generation, and soon many of the wealthiest families sold their lands and moved to Mississippi, leaving only those who had not the wherewith to go "farther and fare worse," or so it proved for the emigrants to the river valley. Hardly were they settled in their homes when yellow fever swept many of the youngest and most vigorous; and, in a few years, the final blow came when the Civil War freed the slaves, rendered their lands worthless without labor to cultivate them, and left their homes desolate.

Locust Grove, being out of the range of Yellow Jack, firebrand and shell, suffered little or nothing from those causes; but events were taking place which in time wrought sad changes in the weakened colony. Their first keen sorrow was the death of their beloved bishop, the peerless Dr.England,whose interest in the Locust Grove congregation had never lessened.

The stricken diocese was widowed for two years before a successor was named. The choice finally fell on Rt. Rev. Ignatious Aloysius Reynolds. Bishop Reynold soon craved a division of the diocese; and in 1850, the See of Savannah was elected, embracing Georgia and Florida.

Very Rev. F. X. Gartland, V. C., of Philadelphia, was created the first Bishop of Savannah. Bishop Garland entered his work with such earnest, tireless zeal the people hailed him a second Dr. England. His visits to Locust Grove are to this day spoken of with enthusiasm and his picture cherished and venerated. In the yellow fever epidemic of 1854, he fell a victim to this pestilence and gave his life for his sheep.

The See, again bereft, was without a chief shepherd until 1857, when Rev. John Barry was consecrated second Bishop of Savannah. Failing health made him an exile; and in 1859, he died in Paris.

The third Bishop of Savannah, Rt. Rev. Augustine Verot, D. D., governed the diocese for three years. His administration embraced the dark period of the Civil War, and the years immediately following, when the country was impoverished and the people disheartened and unsettled. He bore every fatigue and inconvenience to visit all parts of his diocese; and even in these troublesome times was often with the distant Locust Grove community. He

invited the Redemptorist Fathers to give missions in the diocese and Locust Grove was one of the chief missions.

In 1807, Rt. Rev. Bishop Verot was transferred to St. Augustine, Florida, when it was made an independent See; and Rt. Rev. Ignatius Perseco succeeded him to the See of Savannah. Bishop Perseco visited Locust Grove twice before his short administration closed.

In view of these frequent changes among the chief shepherds of the fold, the ravages of war and-pestilence, we can understand and appreciate the trials of the faithful flock left at Locust Grove.

The broad lands and splendid homes left by the emigrants to Mississippi were bought by rich Protestant planters, who would not sell an acre, and so shut out the Irish Catholics from settling near the church. In 1852, the railroad was built and all new comers gravitated toward that, leaving the church three or four miles away. Distance made little difference to Irish piety; and for these good people we can reverse the old proverb and make it read, "The farther from the church, the nearer to God," but their hearts were torn and their spirits broken when their beloved Father Whelan was taken away. Rev. Edward Zeigley, who was placed in charge, remained only a year or two; and after that Locust Grove had no resident pastor, but was visited occasionally from Augusta. The parsonage was rented to a Protestant family and the dear old church was in the midst of aliens.

Visited by a priest but once in two or three months, it seemed only natural that the great fervor should grow cold; but on the contrary. the fidelity of the people was edifying. For years young and old would come, fasting, distances of eight, ten and fifteen miles to receive Holy Communion at the ten o'clock Mass on Sunday.

But all odds were against them; many families moved away and Protestants came in. The children had only "old Field Schools" and little chance to learn their religion. Year by year the situation grew worse. The visiting priests and each mission priest knew that Catholic schools and teachers to aid in the work were necessary, for education and religion must go hand in hand.

God did not mean to abandon this chosen spot nor to allow the flickering flame to be extinguished, where it had first been kindled and had burned as brightly. In his own way He sent His servants to revive the dying embers and gather together the scattered brands.

When, in 1869, the Redemptorist Father, at the solicitation of Bishop Verot, visited Locust Grove, one of these missioners was Rev. Father William H. Gross (now Archbishop of Oregon). Little did he think that his next visit to Locust Grove would be as its bishop (for a few years later he succeeded Bishop Perseco as See of Savannah), or that he would be the means, directly and indirectly, of perpetuating the work begun by the great Dr. England in this historic spot. No doubt, however, the interest awakened in the place and people by his sojourn among them as a missionary, the great faith and fever he saw in their hearts caused him to consider their welfare when he became Bishop. The first priest ordained by Bishop Gross, shortly after his consecration, was Rev. J. M. O'Brien, (now pastor in Augusta, Ga.) in whom the Bishop saw promise of a zealous worker, a true shepherd of souls.

Father O'Brien was, therefore, sent on the mission, which included Locust Grove and embraced a dozen or more places besides. The young priest set to

work with the zeal and earnestness which to this day characterizes all his undertakings, but Locust Grove naturally claimed a special attention on account of the great disadvantages under which the faithful and long-suffering people were laboring. Many a time he would "double" on Sundays, i. e., say Mass in Washington, Wilkes County, then ride 18 miles in a rickety conveyance to say another Mass to Locust Grove, that they might have that blessing oftener than before.

He determined that the "church in the wilderness" should be brought nearer to the people; and in a few months he had it torn down, transported three miles, and re-erected it in the midst of the Catholic settlement now called Sharon. (1877).

His next move was to solicit the aid of the Sisters of St. Joseph, whom Rt. Rev. Bishop Cross had lately transferred from Savannah to Washington, Ga. These noble women responded promptly (1878). Without hesitation they spared three from their small community, who bravely began work in a poor little house destitute of every comfort and convenience. They gathered the children around them and labored uncomplainingly until, in time, a better home was provided for them. They came "without scrip or purse," but in union with the zealous pastor, made rapid progress. When the need of a suitable school building became evident, Father O'Brien challenged the congregation, now so much encouraged, for a new church, which was soon built. The old one was then fitted up for a school. The Sisters enlarged their house and opened a boarding school for small boys. A pretty group of buildings one sees today within spacious grounds, with a back-ground of oak and pine forest, convent, school, and parsonage, and across the way "God's Acre."

Rt. Rev. Thos. A. Becket, present Bishop of Savannah has given great encouragement and impetus to the work by his interest in the school and frequent visitations. Bishop Becket also grants them the blessing of a resident pastor, and in God's wise providence this holy priest is Rev. A. J. Semmes, a near relative of the pioneer Semmes family who came to Locust Grove 100 years ago and brought the faith from Maryland to Georgia. After many years it is like unto the days of yore, only a hundred fold more blessed. For now they not only have a beloved bishop full of zeal for the progress of education and religion, a holy priest devoted and untiring in his labors, but they also have the patient, self-forgetting religious sisters to assist the generous pastor in breaking the "Bread of Life," to his children. There daily, they teach the truths that Bishop England gave his life to spread, within the very walls which so often resounded with the eloquence of the learned prelate, and illustrate them by their own lives, by the edifying example which is stronger than precept.

How often hard-working priests hesitate to ask the aid of religious women in their labors, for fear these might become an added burden rather than help; but how nobly they work, how unselfishly they lend themselves to the advancement of religion and the good of souls is amply proven in this instance, only in a thousand such. Wherever they are, there is a blessing with them and the town or city giving them a home is incalculably richer for their presence, not only in spiritual riches but even in temporal, and the pastor with such help-mates will have an abundant harvest for the master. No one knew and appreciated this better than Rt. Rev. Dr. England, who always eager for the assistance and co-operation of religious women, obtained it

whenever possible, and in his writings pays them a tribute of praise and gratitude, for their great work in the cause.

Of old Locust Grove nothing remains save the peaceful burial grounds and all the tender memories unfaded and undying. No one has been buried therein since the removal of the church, so the Maryland pioneers and their co-workers for the faith sleep undisturbed beside the spot they loved and cherished, where bravely and hopefully they cradled the infant church, watched over it, clung to it and lay down for their last sleep beside it to await the Resurrection morn when God will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, You have fought the good fight, you have kept the faith. There is laid up for you a crown of justice. Enter into the joy of the Lord."

The occasional visitor, some one from afar, perhaps with a loved one resting there – for in many states there are hearts tenderly bound to Old Locust Grove – treads softly on this sacred ground, far from the bustle and turmoil of the world; reads reverently the honored names on the time-blackened stones, pausing involuntarily beside a simple shaft to the memory of a young priest, Father Jerry L'Neil; breathes a "De Profundis" at the foot of the great mission cross; then on the mossy bank of the circling stream rests in the cool shade, near the ever-flowing spring, to dream of the days when the noble Bishop England stood beneath those very trees and awakened the echoes with the masterful voice whose tones had rung in thrilling oratory in Cathedral, Church, and Senate Hall, in the presence of prelates, Lords and Statesmen, but never with more fervid eloquence, more grand sublimity than here in the heart of a Georgia forest, in the church of the Maryland colonists – the church of Locust Grove.

(Written in 1890 by Miss Nellie Maguire of Washington, Ga., and later printed in "The Catholic Mirror," Baltimore, Md.)

CHAPTER 9

Schools

In olden times Warren County boasted of her fine schools, the principals of which were generally Irishmen or New England Yankees. In those days it was beneath the dignity of an educated Southerner to teach, and he would seek other employment.

The academies, so called, were in some instances nothing more than a log school house, with seats made of slabs, a writing shelf, goose quill pens and a few bottles of ink. But the hearts of the people were not burdened with superfluities in regard to education as is often the case now. What they wanted was a good substantial education, and that could be obtained in a log house, if a capable instructor was provided. Many of the teachers were not slow in applying the rod to quicken the ideas of a sluggard or to correct the misdemeanor of some rude boy or girl, for in truth, "reading and writing and 'rithmetic were taught to the tune of the hickory stick." In some schools there was a "dunce block." Some times this was resorted to instead of the rod. The best pupils considered it a disgrace to be seated on the "dunce block."

Among the first teachers of Warren County was an old Virginian, a Revolutionary soldier. He was known as "Uncle Fox Ransome." He was here in the latter part of the 18th century, and he died in the thirties. He taught in the "Redlick District." After retiring from his business, he visited among his old patrons and pupils who had married and had homes of their own. He rode a little sorrel horse that he called "Sutton." If he caught any of the young boys of the family with whom he was staying riding Sutton out of his natural gait, he would abuse them to the lowest degree and would threaten to cut off their ears if he ever caught them riding Sutton again.

Gabrial Hubert taught in the Elim settlement in the latter part of the 18th century. He moved to Mississippi.

Richmond Burnley, Henry Brown, William Castleberry, and Churchill Gibson taught in the 1820's. Robert Fleming, a Warren County teacher of the early part of the 19th century, later became a Baptist preacher. James Irvine, an Englishman, taught in the 1830's and Joseph Barnett in the early 1840's. These are among some of the early teachers who taught the common or old field schools.

Through the Senatur Academicus, the State distributed what was known as the poor school fund. This was acquired from a small tax allowed for this purpose. No opprobium was attached to accepting help from this fund, as all children in the county were eligible to use it except children of those parents who were able to provide tutors.

The log school with its Irish and Yankee school master, its dunce blocks, its rods, its quill pens and bottles of ink is a thing of the past. Now we have the new academy with the blackboards, charts, globes, patented desks and seats, steel pens, fountain pens and other improvements. No academy is complete without its music room and piano.

In 1860, an act of legislature provided that counties levy a tax for educational purposes, and they were then called public schools. They ran only three months. In 1890, they extended to four months, in 1893 to five months and later to six and in 1930 they operated eight months. School in 1974 must be open for 180 teaching days.

The number of county school houses increased rapidly as the years went by, each little community having one so that the children were in easy walking distance of the school. The men of the county have always had an ardent desire to give their children the best educational advantages within their power, and this seemed to them the best way possible; and, indeed, it was the only way for a long time. However, as time went by they realized the difference in the advantages afforded the town children and those of the remote districts, and gradually a change, unrecognized for a while perhaps, took place. In 1925, an election was held, the results of which made a district school of the Warrenton High School which had, up to that time, been a City school. The radius of the district was three miles in all directions. Progressive legislation has, since that time, enlarged the district and, in 1930, the county owned and operated six buses bringing children from the remotest parts of the county.

Previous to the consolidation there were twenty-one white schools. Two of them, Norwood and Camak, did junior high school work; and Warrenton, senior high school work. More than fifty percent of the students in the Senior High School live outside the Warrenton District. All have an equal chance without any aditional cost.

Present conditions have not only equalized the opportunity for education, but it has socialized the community and has created a cordial acquaintanceship and a co-operative school spirit throughout the county.

An Act to appoint commissioners for the county academy of Warren and to incorporate the same passed December 25th, 1821. John Butt, Peyton Baker, Chappel Heath, W. A. Pettit and Grisby E. Thomas served as commissioners.

MONAGAN ACADEMY

"An Act to incorporate Monagan Academy in Warren County and to appoint trustees for the same passed December 26, 1826."

Section 1. – Be it enacted. Etc., that Turner Persons, John C. Turner, Samuel Pitts, Robert Palmore and Thomas Gibson be, and they are hereby declared to be a body corporate by the name and style of Monagan Academy in Warren County, with the privilege of using a common seal.

The principal of this academy was Professor John Monagan a native of

Ireland. Prof. Monagan was considered one of the finest teachers in the state. He was assisted by Prof. Walsh and Gallyham. The academy was located on the Warrenton road about four miles northwest of Warrenton near where the Curan Battle residence now stands. The late Herschel V. Johnson, Ex-Governor of Georgia; Benj. H. Baker, a distinguished lawyer of Alabama; Judge Wm. Gibson of Warrenton and Augusta; Dr. R. W. Hubert, of Warrenton, and many other boys who made prominent and useful men attended this school.

WARRENTON SCHOOL

The first school in Warrenton was built of logs, doubtless, and was situated across the street from where Zake Jarrett's Store Stood. The town of Warrenton, at that time, was almost entirely on the north side of the court house. The Methodist church was on that side and the school was not far from where the church stood. Dr. Erasmus Burkhalter, one of our present oldest citizens, went to school there. Later, a two-story frame building was erected on the site where the present academy now stands. This new building was used as a girls school; the boys continued in the old building. These two schools were maintained as late as 1850, being designated as "The Boys' Academy" and "The Girls' Academy" of Warrenton.

The boys' school house was finally razed and rebuilt in the rear of the girls' school and the girls were placed in the smaller building with the assistant lady teacher, who was in charge. Mrs. Sue English and Mrs. Anna Burkhalter went to school in this house. They are now living. The boys, under the supervision of the principal, went to school in the one formerly occupied by the girls.

In 1816, a charter was granted the Warrenton Academy with the following trustees: Samuel Lowther, Peyton Baker, Arthur Moncrief, Edward Donahoo, Rufus Brown, Archalous Flewellin, Turner Person, Geo. W. Hardwick, and Dennis L. Ryan.

The school was afterward made a co-ed school, the boys and girls both sitting and reciting in the large building while the one room house which the girls had used remained vacant. Occassionally it was used for dances, but was finally torn down. Some of the early teachers were Felix Brown, A. C. Tilden, a Mr. Thornton and a Mr. Kane.

In 1881, Professor A. S. Morgan was principal, with Mrs. J. R. Swain assistant. Mrs. Morgan taught French, the pupils in that branch of learning going to her home which still stands and is opposite the brick bungalow owned by Dr. J. C. Jarnagin. It was a great pleasure to escape the watchful eye of Mr. Morgan, even for a short while, and the pupils awaited with impatience the hour for their French lesson. Sight singing was taught with no instrument. When the pupils were seated early in the morning session, Professor Morgan would have the song books distributed, and with the baton in his hand he would sing the "c" scale. Getting the proper pitch, he would beat the time, and all would sing in chorus. Lingering in the minds of the pupils of that day are "Wake up Little Daisy," "Mabel Gray," and any other songs learned by sight. If a discord was made, his musical ear caught it immediately, and he would stop the song and iterate and reiterate the tone until harmony was restored, and each pupil could sing with confidence.

In 1882, this building was torn down and a larger frame building was

erected in the rear of the one then standing, to accommodate the school which had grown beyond its limits. This was also a frame building of two stories with an auditorium on the second floor. The closing of school at this time was a very important event. Oral examinations, which frightened the pupils dreadfully, were given before large audiences, and "exhibitions" which, up to this time, had been given in the court house on an improvised stage. These "Exhibitions" consisted of recitations, songs, operettas, etc.

It was during the principalship of Professor John E. Gross in 1892 that the school was graded and Miss Rosa Brinkley taught the primary department; Mr. Alex Ware, the grammar school; and Mr. Gross taught the high school. Prof. Chas. H. Bruce succeeded Mr. Gross, and, in 1896, the first diplomas were delivered to the graduating class which included Kate Burkhalter, Mamie Jarnagin, Cora Wilhoit, Henry Burkhalter, Claude J. English, Matthew English and Robert Mayes.

This building was destroyed by fire and replaced by a larger structure which was also burned in 1913, when the present brick building was erected.

In or about 1910, a state and district High School Association was organized and the pupils of the Warrenton Academy won many medals and honors, and a silver loving cup was permanently won for the school. A school library was begun, that today contains more than three thousand volumes.

In 1928, an election was held and decided in favor of the Warrenton Academy, which was at that time a city school, becoming a District Senior High School. The District was to include all the territory in the radius of three miles. Later legislation has enlarged the district, and consolidation has increased the enrollment to more than four hundred pupils.

Prof. Morgan was elected the first county School Superintendent of Warren County and gave up teaching. As principal of the school, he was followed by Prof. Ernest Neal. A. F. Ware, Prof. Neeley, John Gross, E. D. Gunby, H. B. Carreker, J. E. Ricketson, Prof. Carmichael, Forest Cumming, H. M. Woods, G. S. Roach, M. H. Dillard and O. G. Lancaster, who is the present superintendent. (1930's)

Under the management of H. B. Carreker the school became a State accredited school, and under C. S. Roach it became also a Southern accredited school.

During the War Between the States the Warrenton Academy suspended school because the principal had taken up arms, but the pupils met at the railroad crossing and went in a body out to the old Shields place to a school that was taught by Mrs. Mathew Shields and Miss Lizzie Shields, assisted by Miss Rebecca Shields.

The school had no music department for years. Individuals taught classes and those pupils who attended school were allowed time off to go to music lessons which were taught in a private home. Just after the War Between the States a man, a German, taught music. In 1886, Miss Belle Hanson was teaching. She was from Thomson, Georgia, and still lives there. She taught for a number of years. Miss Hasseltine Fowler taught both piano and guitar. Mrs. G. W. Felts also taught for years in connection with the school. While she was teaching, a music department was added to the school and she taught in the school building. Following her were Miss Glen Allen, Miss Nana Johnson, Miss Lillie Allen, Miss Sallie Frank Thompson, Miss Nellie Lou Tippins, Mrs. J. J. Evans, Miss Sadie Fowler and Miss Mary Alexander, who has charge of the music department at present.

nton School, 1908

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It was probably the nicest country academy ever built in the county up to that time. It was a good frame building, ceiled within and painted white. It had glass windows and green shutters. It was located on the road leading to Double Wells. It was named in honor of Ebenezer Bird, the father of Mrs. Jas. G. Swain. Matthew Henry Hubert was the first teacher in 1837, before the new house was completed. James Claxton had charge in 1838, and in 1839 and 1840 Prof. Stewart Beggs was principal. He was a native of Ireland

and was quite popular as a teacher in that day. He afterward studied medicine at a medical college and was a practitioner at the time of his death which occurred in Columbia County a few years ago. In 1841, Miss Martha Wells, a native of Battleboro, Vt., taught at Birdsville. A few years after this the house was sold and remodeled and used for a store house.

OAK GROVE ACADEMY

This Academy was built by Matthew H. Hubert in 1852, located within half a mile of his residence in an oak grove on the public road leading from Sparta to Double Wells, a station then on the Georgia Railroad.

The first teacher was Francis Fellows, a young man from Hartford, Conn. He was a student from Yale College, a member of the Junior Class, half advanced. He came south to teach to enable himself to finish his education. He opened his school in January, 1853, and remained until August, 1854, when he was compelled to give up the school on account of malaria fever in the district. He was a splendid disciplinarian and a thorough and competent teacher. He returned to Yale, graduated with the class of 1856, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1857 and was practicing law in Hartford at the commencement of the Civil War. In religion he was a Congregationalist and in politics was a strong Abolitionist. While teaching at Oak Grove during his winter vacation, he visited his family and friends in Hartford and when he returned he brought with him a copy of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." This copy was the first ever seen in Warren County. It later reached the ears of the people of Oak Grove community, perhaps only a rumor, that he was in command of a Negro regiment at Olastee or Silver Lake, Florida, and was killed on February 20, 1864.

In 1855, Oak Grove Academy opened with S. A. Parker and his wife, Nancy M. Green, in charge. They taught till June, 1858. This young couple was from Lempoter, N. H., and were graduates of the Green Mountain Liberal Institute at South Woodstock, Vermont, in the class of 1855. They ranked among the best teachers ever employed in Warren County. They were accomplished and thorough scholars. In elocution and penmanship Mr. Parker excelled. In religion they were Universalists. Later he entered the ministry and was pastor of the Universalist church at Bethel, Vt., for 16 years.

For 30 years he never lost a Sunday's preaching. He was a sincere believer in the principles of Masonry and did what he could in building up the institution of Masonry. He was the first Worshipful Master of White River Lodge No. 90, and filled the office for ten consecutive years. He also served as Assistant Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Vermont.

He was much beloved by his Oak Grove pupils. Mr. and Mrs. Parker left Warren County in July 1858, for Kanansville, N. C. Mrs. Parker died there August 8, of the same year. Mr. Parker then returned to his native state. He was married to Miss Mary A. Hunton, daughter of Dr. Ariel Hunton, of Hyde Park, Vt. on July 8th, 1860. He died in January, 1911. Oak Grove Academy was then moved near the residence of Mr. John Walker, and the old grounds are in cultivation.

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place now owned by Mr. H. F. Norris.

HEATH'S ACADEMY

Heath's Academy was situated seven miles due west from Warrenton Courthouse and one mile from Elim church in the 157th District. It was then moved one mile farther North to the home place of Mr. S. F. Ivey. A. B. Thrasher was teacher from 1858 till the War Between the States began in 1861. The school was again moved to the property belonging to Mr. Ben Heath and its name was changed to Pine Grove Academy, and was used within the last few years when it was consolidated with the Barnett School.

BRINKLEY ACADEMY

This school was organized and the building erected in 1878 near New Prospect Church. It was a neat frame building with 2 rooms, stoves, patented desks and seats, blackboards, globes, charts and other apparatus, also a music room with piano. The trustees were Dr. W. H. Pilcher, Capt. W. W. Swain, James F. Hubert, and Benjamin F. Hubert. It was named in honor of Prof. Sterling G. Brinkley. He, with Miss Lillie A. Jordan as assistant and music teacher, opened school in January, 1879, with 75 or 80 pupils.

He was a native of Warren County and a well educated and up-to-date teacher. His pupils advanced rapidly under his new methods of teaching. When the term ended July 16, there was an unusually large audience, estimated at 1,000 or 1,500, assembled to witness the closing exercises. At night there was a concert and exhibition. Mr. J. W. Akin, of Cartersville, was speaker of the evening and he was introduced by Judge Wm. Gibson. The Warrenton Silver Cornet Band furnished music, and dinner and supper were served on the grounds.

AMSDEN ACADEMY

Amsden Academy was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature December 16th, 1827. The building was erected on Williams Creek. The Trustees were Solomon Lockett, Thomas Persons, Joseph Hill, Henry Heath, Jethro Darden, Reuben Rogers, and Edwin Baker. Joseph Leonard Amsden, a native of Windsor, Vt., was principal of this academy. It is said that he was a good teacher in those days though rather tyrannical. He grew more irascible as the years went by. Jesse M. Thornton, Matthew Henry Hubert, Alfred Baker (late president of the Augusta Saving Bank) Henry Baker, Robert Hill, Thos. Persons, J. M. Elliott, Uriah Lockett, Pierce Bailey and many other boys who made prominent and successful men were pupils here under Amsden.

In 1850, Amsden taught in "Redlick." Benjamin F. Hubert, Matthew H. Hubert and William B. Barksdale were trustees at that time. His pupils were mostly small and many of them are living today and their recollections of the old log school and the Yankee teachers are not very pleasant.

Mr. Amsden was six feet, two inches tall, raw-boned and muscular; had a long face and head, large blue eyes, ruddy complexion, wore a stern expression and had a regular downcast nasal twang. He was well educated and cultivated and claimed to be a graduate of Dartmouth College. He was very eccentric and by nature a hermit.

He was not fond of teaching, but having no other means of support he was compelled to teach. He would teach for several years, then loaf till his money gave out, and then reluctantly return to teaching. He was about as amiable in the school room as a hungry tiger and as well calculated to frighten a parcel of children out of their wits. He believed in a diligent application of the rod, not because his pupils needed it, but to keep them from needing it. For some cause he kept his ears stuffed with wool which made his hearing difficult. The pupils were compelled to speak loud enough to be heard a mile.

A considerable portion of his time was spent in making pens from quills. In this he was an expert. Every Monday morning each one of his writing scholars was compelled to bring to school a certain number of quills. If they failed to do so the little fellows were severely flogged. All the geese in the neighborhood had been stripped of their quills. The youngsters did not know what to do. One Sabbath morning two of his pupils, whose ages were respectively 10 and 12 years, went to church several miles distant. As they were returning, they saw a flock of geese and they could not resist the temptation to get the quills. They dismounted, caught the geese and stripped them of every quill. They went home well stocked and well pleased to think that they would escape a thrashing the next morning As they rode up, their father inquired into the matter. They told him what they had done and why they had done it. He reproved them, but they carried the quills to school and the professor could make pens to his heart's content.

Prof. Amsden was well known through eastern Georgia and in portions of South Carolina, where he also taught writing schools. After he retired, he spent much of his time at the home of Mr. H. Hubert, who was one of his favorite pupils. He died in a hospital in Augusta, Georgia, in 1870. He was a member of the Catholic Church.

MRS. SANDWICH'S GIRL SCHOOL

In 1831 and 1832, a Mrs. Sandwich and her daughter, Miss Caroline Sandwich, taught school at what is now known as the "Polly Gibson Place," which is located on the Georgia Railroad between Camak and Mesena. Miss Sandwich was probably the first music teacher in the county. Besides lessons, Mrs. Sandwich taught embroidery and other fancy work. This school was composed of some of the first girls of Warren County, among whom were daughters of George W. Hardaway, Bennett Cody, Thomas Gibson, Dennis L. Ryan and others. Mrs. Sandwich came from Augusta, Georgia, to Warren and removed to Upson County, Georgia. She was the mother of Col. M. H. Sandwich of Thomaston, Georgia.

NORWOOD SCHOOL

Norwood's school was a one-room house situated on the lot in the rear of what is now the brick warehouse of G. A. and W. E. Ray. This school was taught by Miss Lizzie Abbott.

The next school was a room on the lot where Mr. J. H. Hawes' home is now situated. Rev. J. H. Armstrong, a Methodist minister, taught this school in 1866. The next teacher was Mr. O'Tyson.

About the year 1870, there appeared another school, a crude, one-room

affair, situated on the site of the Norwood cemetery, where many of those who blazed the trail lie buried. The first teacher in this building was Mrs. W. S. Hill, the mother of Mrs. W. A. Bradshaw, Mrs. E. B. Sisson, Mrs. F. L. Barksdale of Norwood, and W. N. Hill of New Orleans. She was followed by Capt. Wylie W. Swain and his daughter Miss Mary Swain, who taught in 1872 and 1873. The third teacher here was Mr. Eben Binson; fourth, Miss Mary Lizzie Wicker, daughter of Mr. Nat Wicker, who later married Doc Jones. The next teacher was Mrs. Cornelia Bailey, who later married Brad Smith. She was the mother of Mrs. C. M. Swain. The next teacher was Miss Anna Beall, who married Mr. W. R. Lowe.

Some of the pioneers of Gunn's Mill community who stood for Christianity, education and progress and assumed the responsibilities of builders and trustees were Messers. F. N. McGinty, V. A. McGinty, John H. Hall, Sam Hyman, Rabe Thompson, E. E. Bradshaw, J. A. Scruggs, Rev. J. M. Armstrong, Thomas Heath, N. E. Hill, S. E. Ray, A. S. Ray and others.

In 1871, Messers. A. M. and T. E. Massengale, two enterprising young men of Thomson, Georgia, came to Gunn's Mill and entered the mercantile business. Mr. T. E. Massengale soon had a post-office established and served as first postmaster. He had it named Norwood in honor of Hon. Thos. M. Norwood, of Savannah, who was serving as United States Senator. In appreciation of the compliment, Mr. Norwood sent Mr. Massengale one hundred dollars to aid in building a larger school house.

Through the generosity of Mr. F. H. McGinty a lot was secured near where the Baptist church was built in 1887. Sometime in the 1880's, the building was completed with Mr. T. C. Newton, a spledid gentleman and educator of Union Point, Georgia, as the first teacher. This was a one-room affair, though another room was soon added. Mr. Newton successfully taught for four or five years and was followed by Mr. Green Kendrick. Next Talford Smith, followed by Rev. J. W. Ellington, a Baptist minister. Then Messrs. W. L. and T. N. Hawes. The next teacher was Mr. C. F. Davis, then Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bodenheimer. Next Prof. E. L. Ray, who was a popular and successful teacher. A new room was added to the main building to make comfortable an increased student body.

It is impossible to mention the names of all who taught. Some who taught in this building were Mr. W. L. Hawes; Mr. W. L. Wooten of Atlanta, assisted by Miss Meta Steedly of Athens, now Mrs. Young of New York City; Miss Lizzie Norman, (now Mrs. E. S. Ray); J. L. Birdsong; Mr. Underwood; Mr. McCall; G. F. Pierce; A. T. Aderhold; B. S. Branham; Ernest Neal, (Poet Laureate of Georgia, in 1930); J. C. Colbert and Miss Eleaner Cloud.

In the spring season of 1911 this building was destroyed by fire while Rev. C. H. Hutchins and Miss Kate Gheesling, (now Mrs. James F. Hall,) were teaching. The school term was finished in the YMCA Hall, which has since burned. Funds for a new building were secured by private subscription to the amount of two thousand dollars and local bonds for two thousand five hundred dollars were issued, payable in five years with interest at six per cent. Mr. Harold Lamb, of Union Point, was the purchaser.

A lot of two acres was secured from Mr. R. K. Hall next to the home of Mrs. Mary C. Massengale. Mr. Hall generously gave one acre and sold the other very reasonably for the school. In 1912, a new four-room, brick building with stage and auditorium upstairs, was completed. The first teachers here were Rev. Firley Baum and Miss Myrtle Dyer, now Mrs. Jefferson Roach of

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. They began teaching in the fall of 1912.

It is impossible to name teachers and trustees in succession. However, some of those who have stood by the cause of education serving as trustees during remote years to the present time have been G. A. Ray, T. E. Massengale, J. M. Norman, J. V. Hall, J. C. Evans, M. W. Scruggs, J. H. Hawes, W. E. Ray, C. M. Swain, R. K. Hall, W. R. Cooper, James F. Hall, E. B. Sisson, P. M. Gheesling, T. N. Ray, S. G. Sisson, W. V. Murrow, Robert Warren and C. M. Ray.

When the women were granted the right of franchise, the following esteemed names of Norwood were voted trustees of the school, viz. Mrs. Ed S. Ray and Mrs. Jas. F. Hall, who received their commissions August 2, 1922. In 1924, Mrs. Joe L. Johnson was made a trustee serving for three years as chairman of the board.

Teachers in this new building have been Rev. Firley Baum, J. L. Blume, J. M. Lutes, Gordon Warren, Rev. C. F. Hughes, J. D. Nash, Ben Groce, C. C. Bell, J. L. Postum, M. H. Cook, Rev. W. A. Flint, K. Parker, H. G. Spratlin and C. H. Sullivan.

In 1928, the school had outgrown its seating capacity, and through the efforts of the trustees with Mr. T. Neal Ray as chairman of the building committee, State and County funds were secured and a two-room brick annex was added. As a result, Norwood has a commodious six-room brick school building with auditorium and stage with scenery. It is a Junior High School with grades running from the first through the ninth.

The present faculty of 1931 is composed of Prof. C. H. Sullivan, principal, 8th and 9th grades; Mrs. James F. Hall, 6th and 7th grades; Mrs. Julie M. Garrad, 4th and 5th grades; Miss Margaret Whaley, 2nd and 3rd grades; Miss Olivia Harper, primary grades; and Miss Emma Adams, the efficient music and expression teacher. Other excellent music teachers have been Mrs. W. H. Cooper, Miss Ruth Waller, Miss Celeste Morgan, Miss Ellene Coleman, Miss Mary Curtis, Miss Lilla Dyer, (now Mrs. C. M. Ray,) Miss Marie Hawes, and Mrs. Ed West, Miss Bessie Evans, and Miss Adams.

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL HISTORY
1932-1974

By 1932, the Board of Education found itself in the midst of a national economic depression. With thousands of workers jobless, innumerable adjustments were required to assure the continued operation of the schools. State and local revenues were delayed and uncertain, and the Board of Education was compelled to continually borrow funds to pay teachers and to operate the schools. Even though this practice was adopted, teachers went for months between payments, and could expect only partial requirements. In addition to its regular instructional program, the Board also contributed to services provided by the County Extension Agent and the Home Demonstration Agent, and health program for the county.

Because of the economic plight, during much of the decade of the Thirties, school officials were concerned mainly with the general operations of the schools, maintenance of the buildings, purchasing of equipment, and transportation problems arising out of the shortage of funds.

At the beginning of 1932, thirty-three schools were operated in the county. Many of these schools were small one or two-teacher elementary

schools located on private property donated for school purposes by interested patrons. In December of that year Camak and Norwood were approved by the State Department of Education as junior high schools.

On March 23, 1933, School Superintendent J. H. Harper reported that revenues from the State and other sources were considerably less than anticipated. Consequently Board members elected to make reductions in the administrative, instructional, and transportation departments as a means to reduce school operating costs. By December of that year, the financial conditions had worsened to the extent that officials considered reducing the length of the school term, but prudent management of schools funds prevented this necessity.

Conditions had improved by the beginning of the 1934 school year and the schools operated on their regular basis. The Superintendent and Board members began to investigate the possibility of securing federal funds to improve the instructional programs of the schools.

In May, 1935, Superintendent Harper made an unsuccessful appeal to secure funds to pay the Warren County school teachers. The teachers had failed to receive payment since the close of January. At a called meeting of the Board of Education, it was decided that the teachers should borrow the amount of money owed them and use FERA funds toward payment of these loans.

In December of 1935, the school Board requested funds in the amount of $14,726 in federal aid for the construction of an adequate school building for the Negroes of Warren County. These funds were matched by four thousand dollars raised by the Negroes and the balance of $4,754 was supplied by the Board of Education. Receipt of these funds provided thousands of dollars for labor in Warren County at a much needed time.

As the depression years continued, the school Board approved the policy of furnishing textbooks and materials to those students otherwise unable to obtain them.

On February 2, 1937, plans were proposed for the construction of a gymnasium for Warrenton High School with federal WPA funds. An earlier gymnasium was begun in 1934 with a five thousand dollar donation furnished by B. H. Baker but was destroyed by fire before completion. The gymnasium was dedicated the following year and presently serves the needs of the county high school students.

Superintendent J. H. Harper and Board President C. R. Fitzpatrick, enroute from a school business meeting in Savannah, were killed in an automobile accident near Blundale on April 16, 1937. Mr. Hugh Cason was appointed County School Superintendent by the members of the Board of Education to fill the vacancy and Mr. R. F. Fowler was appointed Board President.

At the following session of the Board, Mr. Cason resigned his position as School Superintendent. Board member W. C. Gheesling also tendered his resignation. An attempt to fill the vacancy of the Superintendent resulted in a tie between Prof. Paul Reviere and Mr. W. C. Gheesling. The Board adjourned until Philip Lazenby was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Gheesling. The Board subsequently agreed that a Special Election be held May 29, 1937, to nominate a successor to the office of School Superintendent.

Because of a division of opinion among Board members as to the legality of certain ballots cast in the special election, a recount of ballots was ordered

validated against the official voter registration list of the County.

At the called meeting of June 2, 1937, the ballots cast in the special election were recounted and validated. The recount indicated that Mr. P. H. DeBeaugrine received 260 votes, Mr. W. C. Gheesling received 220 votes, Mr. W. T. Veazey received 171 votes, and Mrs. A. R. Shivers received three votes. Mr. DeBeaugrine was declared the winner of the Special Election and was named to the office of Superintendent of Schools.

At the regular Board meeting held February 1, 1938, the Board of Education agreed to sponsor the establishment and maintenance of Library Service for Warren County under the supervision of WPA Librarian Lily Anderson. As sponsors, the Board agreed to contribute $10.00 per month for the purchase of books. Mrs. C. L. Pilcher, Mrs. E. S. Ray, Mrs. H. C. Hunt, Mrs. Hugh A. Cason, and Mrs. C. W. Mathews were named to serve on the first County Library Board.

The Budget for the operation of the Warren County Schools for fiscal 1938 was approved in the amount of $70,876.83.

Revenues were scarce in 1939, and by March there was considerable doubt that the schools of the county could complete the full term. To help meet the ensuing crisis, the County Board of Education agreed to guarantee to the teachers two and one-half months of pay due by the State if the teachers agreed to guarantee the Board a complete school year. After due consideration the teachers agreed to accept the proposed plan, and the school year concluded without incident. Financial difficulties continued the following year, and only through prudent management of the school budget were school officials able to operate the county schools the full term.

The federal government approved plans to initiate a county-wide lunchroom project with WPA funds in 1938. Under the proposed project the program would be sponsored by the Warrenton PTA. In November, 1939 the City of Warrenton granted the organization permission to remodel the school bus garage to house the lunchroom program. These plans were cancelled when the service building proved inadequate. Faced with the approaching deadline for implementing the project, the PTA organized a school soup line for the first three grades in 1940 with Julia Davis, Ethma Davis, and Xara Terrell serving meals from the front porch of the Warrenton Community House. Later, the lunchroom was opened to all grades when it moved into the basement of the Warrenton Elementary School.

In 1939, a canning plant was opened at Warrenton High School under the supervision of A. C. Bellamy. The plant, operated in connection with the Vocational Agriculture Program, provided canning services for all the people of the county.

Following the onset of World War II a shortage of teachers occurred and continued until the conclusion of the war. The scarcity of instructors developed because war industries provided higher earning than the teaching profession. Nonetheless, the schools in the county continued to operate as smoothly as possible under the war conditions with only minimal adjustments required.

In December, 1942, at the request of the Office of Defense Transportaion, the Board agreed to check and reroute where necessary all bus routes in order to conserve equipment and supplies necessary for the operation of the units. This practice was continued throughout the remainder of the war. Improvements during the war years were postponed because of the lack of

materials and labor.

The County school budget, based on State supported seven month terms, totaled $95,099.89 for fiscal 1944.

The county schools began receiving surplus commodities provided by the Food Distribution Administration for use in the school lunch program in 1943. Later that year the schools operated a two-week period of shortened school days to enable students to assist in the harvesting of crops.

Following the conclusion of the war the operation of the schools returned to normal. The Veterans Farm Training Program was implemented at the request of returning servicemen, and Alton W. Davis was engaged as instructor.

Miss Inez Brinkley, Miss Jessie High, and Mrs. Margaret E. Wilson were named to the 1948 Textbook Committee to consider the adoption of textbooks for the county schools. This study led to the establishment of a uniform listing of textbooks to be used in the Warren County Schools beginning in 1950.

The budget for the operation of schools increased to $211,946.56 for the 1950 fiscal year.

In response to legislative enactment, the Board of Education agreed to extend the training period in the Warren County Schools from eleven to twelve years for high school graduation beginning with the 1951 school term. A course of study that would give the students in the Warren County Schools an additional year of high school work and also better prepare them for college or their life work was adopted following a meeting with officials of the Georgia Department of Education.

Operation of the Cadley School was discontinued at the close of the 1951 school year because the number of teachers at the school would be reduced to one under the State educational allotment. The Board considered this alternative to be in the best interest of the students and financial resources of the schools.

For a number of years the School Board had expressed growing concern over the condition of the county schools. Facilities in the Negro schools were inadequate, the white schools were over-crowded, and the physical condition of the buildings had deteriorated to the extent that they were increasingly difficult to maintain. With the establishment of the State School Building Authority in 1951, the Board began to consider plans for the construction of buildings throughout the county. The Board initiated a survey of each school in the county to determine school needs. In January, 1952, the site for the proposed Warrenton Negro School was selected and 13.94 acres were purchased from J. P. Wilhoit for $2,000. The building site for the Norwood Negro School included 12 acres purchased from H. J. Flanders for $100 per acre. The site for the Warrenton White School was located on 6.5 acres purchased from the Reese-Hyman Post of the American Legion for $2,000. A fourth site designated as the Salem Negro School on lands of Mrs. T. W. Hall was considered and later rejected by the Board. On April 23, 1953, the State Board of Education and the State School Building Authority approved the Warren County application for school construction amounting to $945,514.00.

The School Board engaged the architectural firm of Scroggs and Ewing to provide the building plans and specifications for the proposed school buildings. The Coite Somers Company was awarded the construction contracts for the three school buildings in Warren County with a combined

bid of $722,000.00, and construction of the three buildings commenced in mid-1955.

The budget for the operation of the Warren County Schools was set at $319,691.77 for the 1955 fiscal year.

Construction of the school buildings continued for the next thirteen months and the Superintendent reported on August 13, 1956, that the new buildings were accepted and the keys turned over to the Board of Education. With the new buildings operational, the Board elected to dispose of the county school properties in the following manner. The Mesena Negro School was sold for $582.00 at public outcry. The Barnett school property had earlier been sold in the same manner for $530.00, and the St. James Negro school property was sold for $25.00 with permission to erect a Fire Tower on the site.

The School Board awarded Quit Claim Deeds to Ray Temple Negro School, Stone Grove Negro School, Camak Negro School, Cason Negro School, and Sandy Grove Negro School.

The Cadley, the 150th District, Norwood, and Camak White Schools were turned over to their respective communities. The Warrenton Elementary School was deeded to the City of Warrenton, and the Warrenton High School was turned over to officials for use by Warren County.

Upon the recommendation of the Survey Reviewing Committees, the outlying county schools were consolidated into the three new school centers beginning with the 1956-57 school year. Consolidation was considered the most efficient and practical means of school operation to meet the needs of the students in the Warren County Schools.

At the request of interested patrons, the Warren County Board of Education agreed to sponsor a school band in the Warren County Elementary and High School in July, 1956. R. Glen Johnson was elected as Director of Band in June, 1958, and later that year the Board agreed to purchase the large band instruments. Johnson served until his death in March, 1962. Other Band Directors at Warren County Elementary and High School were as follows: Leon Rundbaken (1962); Jimmie O. Tidwell (1962-64); Richard M. Woodham (1964-66); Artie Middleton (1966-68); and Ellis L. Cannon (Spring, 1968). A school Band was organized at the Warrenton Elementary and High School in 1966 under the direction of Frank Williams Jr. (1966-67); Charles N. Burton (1967-71); and Henry H. Duncan (1971-).

Legion Field, located on a site formerly owned by Reese – Hyman Post No. 96, of the American Legion, became the home of the Warren County Blue Devils football team at its dedication on September 18, 1959. The field continues to meet the present needs of the Warren County High School student body.

The STAR (Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition) Program was initiated in 1958 to focus attention on scholastic excellence and on the teaching profession. STAR Students are named on the basis of their scores on the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test and the scholastic average for the first semester of their senior year, and each winner selects the teacher who has made the most meaningful contribution to his education. STAR Students and STAR Teachers for the Warren County Schools are as follows:

SCHOOL YEAR	STAR STUDENT	STAR TEACHER
1958-59	David Abbott	Carl C. Bowen
1959-60	Janie Lee Brown	Sarah G. Clary
1960-61	Ronald C. Humphrey	Lois L. McGinty
1961-62	George Gray Kitchens	Robert L. Todd Jr.
1962-63	Ethel Melissa McMahon	Lois L. McGinty
1963-64	Charles D. Kitchens Jr.	Ellie Wree Fulghum
1964-65	Sarah Carolyn Evans	Lois L. McGinty
1965-66	Joseph Rogers Ricketson	Sarah G. Clary
1966-67	Thomas Dale Twilley	Lois L. McGinty
1967-68	Robin Leah Fleming	Julia G. English
1968-69	William Calhoun Wren	Lois L. McGinty
1969-70	Karen Elaine Rayfield	Mary F. Johnson
1970-71	Phillip James Smith	G. Hale Burnette
1971-72	James Oliver Smith	Dale B. Ricks
1972-73	Cary Lane Langford	Jacquelyn P. Abbott
1973-74	Tina Marie Todd	E. Carlton Robbins

The death of County School Superintendent P. H. DeBeaugrine occurred November 19, 1959. He served as superintendent of the Warren County schools for 22 years beginning June, 1937. During his tenure of office the Warren County Schools had struggled to its recovery from the Great Depression and had emerged from the throes of world conflict to become a modern, dynamic, efficient, and progressive system. His widow served as pro-tempore Superintendent of Schools until George M. Holliman was elected to the office beginning December 19, 1959.

Each of the schools in the Warren County School System has received accreditation from the Georgia Accrediting Commission every year since its inception in 1966. Additionally, the Warren County School has earned accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The educational offerings in the Warren County Schools received a tremendous boost when the school system applied for and received federal funds totaling $171,000 provided through the provisions of Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Although that legislation aimed to improve education for the disadvantaged, it was distinctly the nearest that the federal government has come to providing general federal aid to education. These funds permitted the implementation of individualized, remedial instructional programs designed to strengthen and support the regular school program. Title I activities have included instructional programs in Art, Band, Music, Physical Edcuation, and Remedial Reading and Mathematics; appropriate instructional equipment was provided for each instructional activity. Supportive programs have featured Attendance, Library, and Food Services. The Title I building program has added two mobile classrooms, a band building, and a Physical Education equipment building. Following the Head-Start Programs in Summer, 1966-67, which provided preschool summer preparation for the educationally deprived, the Title I program has maintained a Summer Program offering remedial instruction in Reading and Mathematics and a preschool kindergarten. For the present school year, Title I funds provide the salaries for twelve classroom teachers and eleven instructional teacher

aides in the Warren County Schools. Instructional services include the operation of remedial Reading and Mathematics classrooms and a two-classroom kindergarten program.

The Office of Superintendent of Schools moved from the Warren County courthouse to its present office facilities on Academy Street in June, 1967. Construction costs of the new building known as the Warren County Materials Center were provided through Title I and local Board of Education funds. This building houses the office for the Title I Coordinator, Title I Clerk, Curriculum Director, Director of Food Services, Superintendent of Schools and his Secretary. There is a conference room for Board of Education and other school-related meetings.

Following the 1954 Supreme Court ruling in the case Brown vs. (Topeka) Board of Education in which the "Separate But Equal" doctrine of schools was overturned, the Warren County Schools entered a sixteen year struggle culminating in the total desegregation of the schools and the conversion to a unitary school system. Official sources reveal that on January 8, 1958, Superintendent DeBeaugrine reported to the Board of Education that after giving much thought to the matter of integrating black and white schools, and after discussing it with various citizens, both white and colored, he had concluded that it would not be in the best interest of the children of either race to integrate. The Board unanimously endorsed his opposition to be a party, to any degree, in bringing about this condition in the Warren County Schools. On April 7, 1959 the School Board unanimously adopted a Resolution voicing its objections, in the strongest manner possible, to any plan from any source that attempts to change the present method of operating the schools on a completely segregated basis. Numerous meetings across the state occurred as the forces of desegregation itensified in colleges and state-supported schools. In August, 1965, at the request of the Department of Health, Education, Welfare, Superintendent Holliman traveled to Washington, D. C. to discuss the desegregation requirements established by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In order to prevent the loss of federal funds to education, on August 5, 1965, the Board of Education adopted a Freedom of Choice pupil placement policy. Under this plan students were placed in the school of their choice without regard to grade, race, color, religion, or national origin.

On the belief that the high schools in Glascock, Taliaferro, Hancock, and Warren Counties would be consolidated by the State Department of Education, the School Board approved a plan for enrolling out-of-county students in the Warren County Schools. Following a disturbance caused by enrolled students from outside Warren County, this policy was amended to accept only resident county students for enrollment in the Warren County Schools.

The county schools continued to operate under the Freedom of Choice Plan of desegregation for five years. On December 24, 1969, the Board of Education received a Federal District Court Order requiring submission of an acceptable plan for the establishment of a unitary school system in Warren County by September 1, 1970. On February 11, 1970, the Warren County Board of Education passed a Resolution consolidating all Warren County schools under the threat of the loss of State funds for non-compliance with the Court Order. The Board found it impossible to operate the county schools without those funds.

The school system was totally desegregated for the first time in the fall of 1970. Compliance with the Court Order required the complete reorganization of the school system. The approved integration plan called for the pairing of the faculty, student enrollment, schools, and transportation program. Space determined the organization. Operation of the schools continues with Grades 1-5 at the Warrenton Elementary School on Hopgood Street, Grades 6 and 7 are housed at the Norwood Elementary School in Norwood, and Grades 8-12 are housed at the Warren County High School on South Gibson Street. The organization of a private school in the county stemmed from this forced desegregation by the Courts. This school was named Briarwood Academy and is located on U. S. Highway 278, midway between Thomson and Warrenton and serves an enrollment from throughout the area.

Recent developments in the Warren County Schools include the addition of an Instructional Aide program. Under this program non-professional personnel receive a three-week training program leading to certification as a teacher aide by the Georgia Department of Education. Teacher Aides perform classroom duties to allow the regular teacher to devote his attention to the instructional program of the school.

The Board of Education established Basic Adult Education classes in the Warren County Schools in July, 1972. This program provides instructional classes with certified instructors to adult members seeking to complete their educational programs.

Prior to beginning the 1973-74 school term the School Board elected to join with thirteen other CSRA school districts in establishing the CSRA Cooperative Educational Services Agency in Thomson. Consultants from this center provide technical and instructional assistance in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Psychological Services, Vocational, and Special Education to aid classroom teachers in developing their teaching techniques, methods, and skills.

A regular preschool kindergarten with limited enrollment was opened to Warren County students the same year. This program provides Early Childhood learning and educational experiences for preschool participants. Further expansion of this program is anticipated during the next school term.

The total population of Warren County and the school population have both been declining at a moderate rate for a number of years. In the decade from 1960 to 1970, the number of Warren County inhabitants declined about 900 or 12 percent. The corresponding school average daily attendance has declined 20 percent in the six years since 1969; 1,538 students are enrolled in the Warren County Schools for the current school year. The school administration has sought to account for this decrease of enrollment primarily by consolidation of schools and by modifying the school program of studies so as to make it more suitable to each person in school.

The most recent data available show that 61 percent of the students who entered ninth grade at Warren County High School completed the high school studies and graduated four years later. Thirty-two percent of the 1974 graduates have gone on to post secondary schools at the collegiate or vocational levels. Forty-four percent are employed or are in the military service and 24 percent are unemployed or unaccounted for.

In addition to the fifty-one State allotted teachers, the Warren County

Board of Education employs twelve Title I teachers and two locally paid teachers. Twelve Title I and two locally paid Teacher Aides complement the instructional programs in the Warren County Schools. The Board of Education is one of the largest employers in the county with 167 employees.

The budget for the operation of the Warren County Schools for 1974 is $1,558,927. This includes State receipts of $1,012,101, Federal funds totaling $249,826, and locally provided funds of $297,000. The Per Pupil Expenditure of $807 is only three dollars below the State average of $810. Included in these totals are a Food Services program in excess of $95,000 and a Transportation program providing the operation of twenty-one county owned school buses.

ATHLETICS

Warrenton High School won its first Region C football championship in 1951 under the direction of Head Coach Charlie Brake. In the South Georgia Championship that year the team was defeated 13-12 by Cuthbert.

The Warren County Blue Devils with Head Coach Ray Lamb won the first South Georgia Championship in 1964 defeating Savannah Country Day in Class C competition 34-0. The team was defeated 6-0 in the State competition with Davis of Trenton.

The first State Championship in the history of the team was recorded in 1965. Warren County defeated Randolph County 33-7 for the South Georgia Class C Championship, and later downed Monticello 19-14 for the State title. Billy Wilhoit was named Class C Back of the Year, and Head Coach Ray Lamb was named Coach of the Year.

Warren County won its second straight Class C Title the following year defeating Putnam County 36-14 and Monticello 20-0. Lamb repeated for an unprecedented second straight time as Coach of the Year.

The Blue Devils continued their dominance of Class C football by winning their third State Championship in 1968. Enroute to the Title, Warren County defeated Savannah Country Day 16-0 and Georgia Industrial Institute 20-6. Bobby Thigpen won honors as the Class C Back of the Year; Coach Hale Burnette earned distinction by being named Coach of the Year.

Warren County High School won its last post-season laurels by capturing the South Georgia Class A Championship in 1970 defeating Wilcox County 26-14. The team was defeated 28-12 in State competition with Roswell. Gary Garner was named Back of the Year. Later that year the school won its first Region Championship in Basketball.

Upon graduation from the Warren County Schools the following persons extended their prep honors in college sports activities: (Football) W. Tom Veazey – Mercer University; W. Alton Davis – University of Georgia; Alex Truit – Vanderbilt; Tommy Benson – Citadel; Bobby Thigpen – Georgia Tech; C. F. Johnson Jr. – Citadel; Eddie Grissom – Albany State College; and Eugene Moss – Fort Valley State College. (Basketball) Allen Bellamy – Augusta College; Nathan Mack – Highland Park College (Michigan); James Dawson – St. Augustine College; and Samuel Collins Jr. (Basketball and Baseball) – Fort Valley State College.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BRIARWOOD ACADEMY

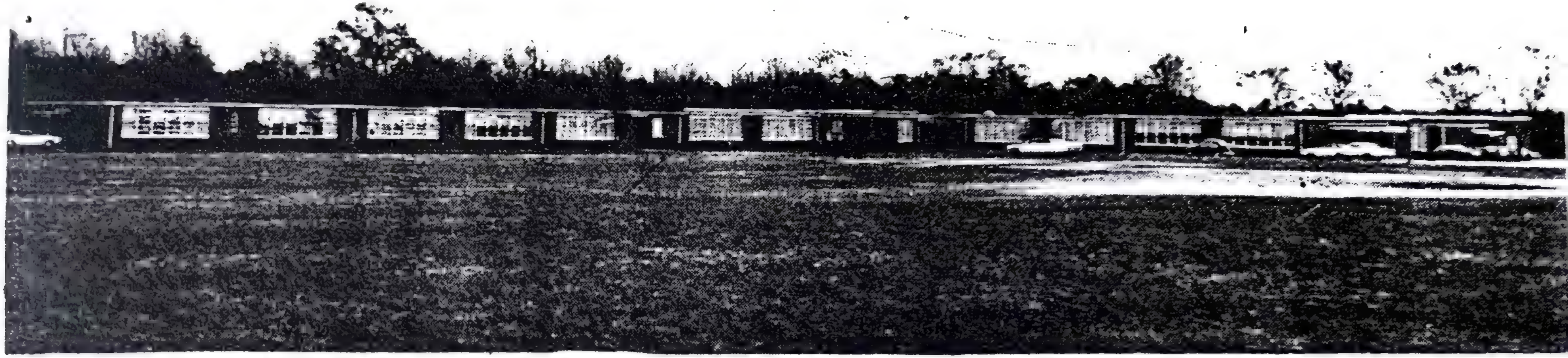
Briarwood Academy, an independent school located in Warren County on Highway 278 midway between Thomson and Warrenton, was founded in the spring of 1970. Mrs. Ruby Evans Felts, Mrs. Carwee Davis Gant, and Mrs. Gretchen Davis Mitchell gave twenty acres of land on which was built a modern, air-conditioned, carpeted, brick building containing sixteen classrooms.

When school opened in the fall of 1970, there were approximately two hundred students enrolled. This number increased to two hundred fifty by the end of the school year. The first headmaster was Clinton Herbert Grant, a native of Oklahoma. On the faculty that first year were Kay Burch, Ruth Watson, Elizabeth Hughes, Nancy Foster, Edith Langford, Gail Baurle, Jacquelyn Abbott, Gary Smith, Mary Evelyn Johnson, Louise Fluker, Lois McGinty, and Ruth McCorkle. The members of the original Briarwood Board of Trustees were Chairman Jack B. Smith, C. Aubrey Brown, Dan N. Crumpton, William L. Godwin, Julian H. Hinesley, Wilbur C. Johnson, Ralph F. Twilley, Jud P. Wilhoit, Jr., and S. Kelley Wood.

During the second year a fieldhouse was constructed, and a Montessori kindergarten was equipped in a building adjacent to this fieldhouse. As the enrollment increased, additional teachers, along with more equipment and textbooks, were acquired.

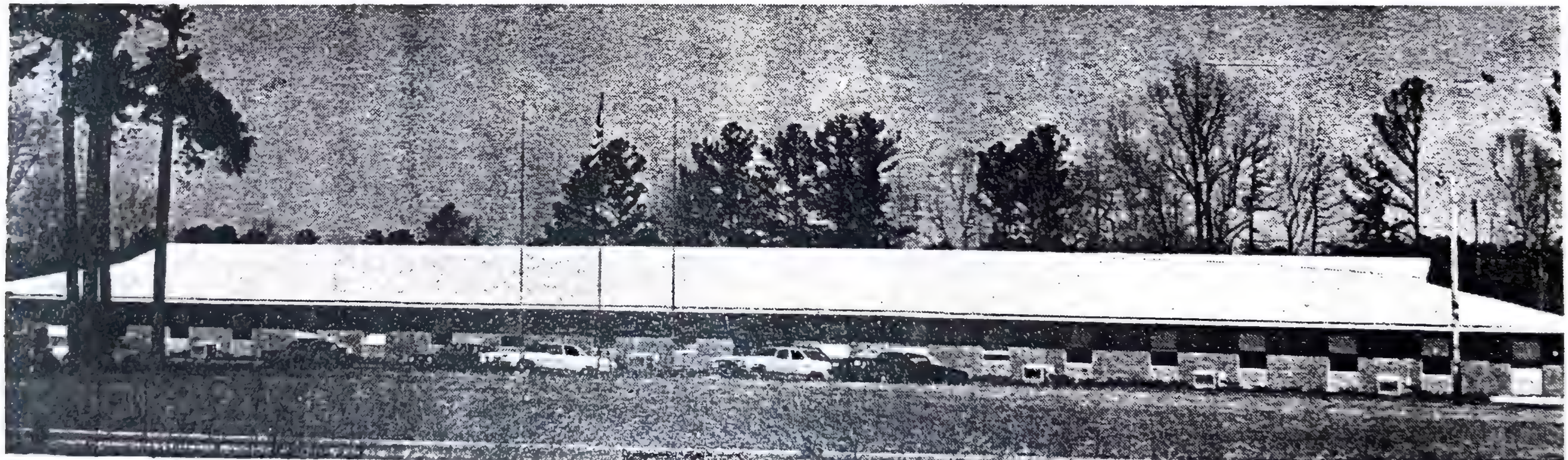
The third year of operation showed such an increase in enrollment that six additional classrooms had to be built. A football field was also constructed behind the buildings. In the fall of 1972, the Briarwood Buccaneer football team demonstrated appreciation by winning the first game before a sellout crowd. The curriculum was broadened to include a wider range of academic subjects plus a music program.

Briarwood's fourth year began without the beloved headmaster, Mr. Grant, who had died in May of 1973. Barry Wayne Hemphill, a native of Warren County, became headmaster. He, together with the entire Briarwood community, is continuing in the tradition set for the school when it was established.



Warren County High School

Photo: E. H. Hightower



Briarwood Academy

CHAPTER 10

Negroes

The Negroes of Warren County are a peace-loving, quiet, respectful race. They are industrious and thrifty. Many of them have acquired homes and lands, and only the aged and infirmed ask or expect aid from their white friends.

On very rare occasions do troubles arise, and then the Negroes, as well as the whites, are willing and eager for justice to be meted.

There has always been a very close tie between the whites and blacks of Warren County. It began in slavery time when the masters and mistresses loved and cared for their slaves. When the Emancipation Proclamation was declared, many of the slaves were fearful of leaving the protective care of "Ol' Marster." Some remained faithful and loyal and refused to take advantage of the opportunity to strike out for themselves.

Andrew Burkhalter was one who refused to leave his owner. He remained with the family, serving them of the fourth generation. He was fed and clothed and given time to work for others to make spending money. When he grew old and unable to work, the Burkhalter family provided for his needs with love and care. When he died in 1930, the Burkhalters provided an appropriate funeral.

When slavery was abolished, three Negro brothers – Floyd, Zack, and David – who had been property of Matthew Hubert in Warren County, went to Hancock County, adjoining Warren. They found 165 acres of land for sale at $10.00 per acre and agreed to buy it. The Negroes cleared the land, worked it with diligence, and paid for it. That was the beginning of the Springfield Community. Today you can walk 15 miles in one direction, and six in another, and never get off land owned by Negroes.

The first year after the 165 acres were paid for, the three brothers divided the land equally. Then each began adding to his own plot. Zack added 40 acres, then 97 acres, then more and more. The other brothers did the same.

Inspired by the success of the three Hubert brothers, other Negroes began buying land and settling in the community. As families grew, Zack decided they must have a school. They built a small log cabin and hired the best white teacher they could find. Through this school passed all 12 of Zack's sons and daughters and the children of the other farmers in the community.

Zack's children all went to college and were graduated with A. B., L. L. D. and Ph.D. degrees. The children of David also graduated from college as did the children of other settlers. One son of Edward Cooper, Edgar L. Cooper was graduated from Tuskeegee, and a daughter, Mamie Estelle, from Spelman. The son is now a farm demonstration agent at Athens, and the daughter is Home Demonstration agent in Hancock County.

In the nineteen twenties, Zack Hubert, the unmistakable leader of the community, died. The future of Springfield looked very dark as the boll weevil had affected cotton production, the major crop. The farms in the community were in a run-down condition; the Negroes were depressed and discouraged; money was scarce and credit almost impossible to secure.

Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, the sixth child of Zack, bought the 500 acres of land which his father had left to him and his eleven brothers and sisters. He paid the nominal sum of $4000 for it, since his brothers and sisters felt there was no future in the land. Zack and his brothers had managed to make a living, but they had worked constantly to do so.

Dr. Hubert, who served as president of the Georgia Industrial College, Savannah, bought the land for several reasons. He felt he owed it to his father to try to brighten the outlook of the community. Dr. Hubert held the belief that country life was the best for members of his race, and he needed Springfield as an experiment station to prove it.

From his interested, rich, white friends Dr. Hubert secured sufficient money to repair the houses of the community and to set the farms in working condition. He began operating six farms himself and advised other Negroes about their lands. They all agreed to decrease cotton acreage, increase corn acreage, and plant additional crops of velvet beans, cow peas, and potatoes. They also agreed to plant vegetable gardens for their own use, and to sell produce. Dairies were to be increased. They have followed this program relentlessly for the past six years, and they have made money.

In the Springfield community, located about 10 miles north of Sparta, is the two-story home of Dr. James Dixon, a Negro physician, who practices medicine and operates a large farm. George Dixon, one of the early settlers of the community, owns 1200 acres of land and his three sons also own their homes and reside here. The Julius Rosenwald school, created by this Northern philanthropist, serves the children of Springfield.

Springfield, which is already the largest Negro land owning community in the United States, recently acquired 500 more acres bought by Professor Jack Hubert of Langston, Oklahoma. Jack is a descendant of Zack Hubert and heads the Langston Normal School for Negroes.

The *Atlanta Journal*, July 26, 1932, carried an article about Springfield and the establishment of the Camilla-Zack Life Center, the first rural community ever established in the history of Negro agriculture.

SLAVERY DAYS

Negroes were first brought to Warren County as slaves. Few came at first because farming was not sufficiently advanced to warrant the owning and maintaining of many slaves.

The chief agricultural product was tobacco. Only as cotton became a profitable crop did farmers feel they could afford slaves.

There was no slave market in Warren County, but planters bought from

markets elsewhere. There was selling and trading of slaves within the county, for intermarriage of slaves often resulted in a sale to allow the slave couple to live with a common owner. In the old deed book in the office of the Clerk of the Court in Warrenton may be found some of the deeds to slaves. Some deeds were made before United States money was in use.

The masters were generally kind and considerate of the slaves' comfort and welfare. There were some owners who were tyrannical and mean to their slaves, as they were mean to their families and other people. Generally, masters were indulgent, and loved and took great pride in the health and happiness of their slaves.

The master and mistress were concerned with the health of the slaves, and often assisted in the treatment of the ill. The death rate was much smaller then than now, and tuberculosis was almost unknown among them. The first day nurseries were established by the southern planters, and many of these were maintained in Warren County during slavery days.

When the parents were sent to their daily tasks, all the babies were sent to one cabin and a sufficient number of attendants insured the well-being of the babies. Milk, potlikker, bread, and mashed vegetables were sent from the "big house" to the day nurseries.

Among the diversions of the slaves were corn shuckings held on the plantations in the fall of the year. Sometimes Negroes from neighboring plantations would join in the fun. The newly-gathered corn was piled in an immense heap outdoors. On the appointed night the Negroes would gather. A leader would climb to the center of the heap while the others gathered around. Lusty corn-shucking songs would set the time for the hands to follow. Sometimes the song consisted of questions and answers, with the leader singing his questions and the others chanting an answer. The songs often carried a superstitious or religious theme. One favorite was "Satan's Train:"

Satan am like a snake in the grass,
Git down offen dat train,
Git down offen dat train,
Oh, git down offen dat train,
Satan am like a snake in the grass,
Oh, git down offen dat train,
Oh, git down offen dat train.

Or perhaps it was "When the Bridegroom Cometh," which ran:

We will all go out to meet him when he comes,
We will all go out to meet him when he comes,
We will all go out to meet him,
We will all go out to meet him,
We will all go out to meet him,
When the bridegroom comes.

The innovative leader would start a new verse by singing "We will have to borry some flour when he comes." It would be taken up by the other singers. By the time all the verses were completed, the corn pile would be greatly diminished. On one side a pile of shucked corn would gleam in the glow of torch lights and a pile of shucks on the other. Occasionally an intermission was given and each Negro given a little "dram." When the task was completed, a hearty supper awaited them.

Slaves were not necessarily unhappy. They did the task set before them

and felt no responsibility for the future. The economic worries of providing food, clothing, housing, fuel, and comfort for the enormous investment in labor were the responsibility of the slave owner.

The census of 1920 gave a ratio of almost three to one in favor of the Negroes in Warren County. Since that time a great exodus to the Northern states has occurred. Many Negroes were lured with promises of high wages, and many were provided with means of transportation. High living expenses and the cost of transportation, plus the change in climate, have caused much discontent. Help has been sent to many who were in need by relatives in Warren County.

In 1881, The North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church assigned Rev. J. W. Parker to the Warrenton Circuit, and he brought with him a little Negro boy names Zeke Jarrett. When Rev. Parker was moved to another charge, Zeke refused to leave the place he had learned to love. When he grew up, he married Aquilla Johnson, and he started a grocery business on a very modest scale. His business grew, and he became one of Warrenton's best grocerymen, and provided well for his family. At the death of his wife, who had no children, he married Sarah Steel of Milledgeville. They had six children: Putnam, Frank, Claud, George, Sarah, and John. When Zeke grew old, he left the business section and built a little store on his own home grounds so that his wife and children could help him and confined his trade to the Negroes. He was an industrious, moral man and enjoyed the confidence of both white and black people. He passed away in 1932.

One of the oldest and most respected Negroes in Warren County today is John Gilliam. Thought to be eighty-nine years old and walking with a stick, that looks like an alpine stock, he is frequently seen on the streets. Physically he is quite feeble, but his mental faculties seem little impaired.

John was the son of Kinchen, who came from North Carolina, and Eliza, who had been the property of a Mr. Carr in Virginia. Kinchen and Eliza were the slaves of Mr. Henry Latimer of Hancock County, and John was born in 1843. John was given to James Latimer, the son of Henry, when he was married and moved to Warrenton in 1854.

John boasts with much pride that he was a drummer boy for the McDuffie Rifles, one of the Military Companies that went from Warren County to the War Between the States. He tells of the drilling and maneuvers that were practiced in the square now used as Central Park in Warrenton.

John married twice, first Eliza Day and last, Sarah Hunt. John had been a carpenter and made good wages until he became too old to work. He was very religious and a leading member of his church. *The Warrenton Clipper,* August 26, 1932, printed the following prayer written by John Gillam:

"O Lord, my Saviour, who came down and died on the cross to save the people, that whosoever believe on Him shall have everlasting life;

"O Lord, my Saviour, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I ask you now to draw near and look into our hearts, and whatsoever sin is found, please bid it all to depart, cast it into the sea of forgetfulness so it will not arise in this world to shame us, neither in the judgement of God to condemn us. I ask you now, my Saviour, to have mercy upon us. I ask you now, my Saviour, to hear our prayers and answer them for Thy Son's sake, Jesus Christ. I ask you now, my Saviour, to look upon us with an eye of pity, long compassion, and have mercy upon us. Draw near unto us and help us to lay aside every weight of sin and run this race with patience that is set before us,

looking unto Him, the author and giver of every good and perfect gift, and help us to press forward to the mark of the high calling. I ask you now, my Saviour, to give us grace that will lead us home when done with this unfriendly world.

"I ask you, my Saviour, to bless every creature, the sick and afflicted, the young and old, the great and small, both saint and sinner, the white and colored.

"I ask you, our Saviour, to go with us down to the old fording place and help us across, where many Baptist believers crossed and are crossing now. I ask, our Saviour, to give us a home somewhere in your Kingdom where we can sit and praise your name forever and ever. AMEN."

William Royal Hudson was born in Warrenton and received his early education in the Warrenton School. After graduating from Morehouse College in Atlanta, he returned to Warrenton to teach. For 45 years he was in charge of the Warrenton Negro school. He married Anna Parrott, a teacher, of Greensboro. They had eight children. One of the daughters, Louise, married Daniel Pope and they spent six years as missionaries in Africa. Another daughter, Marie, taught Domestic Science at Paine College in Augusta, Georgia.

George Fowler was born in 1844, the property of Mr. Levi Fowler. He is still living at his birthplace, and is known as "Daddy Fowler." He is highly esteemed, and is provided for by Col. E. P. Davis, whose wife owns the farm on which he lives.

Charlie William Smith, the son of Chamey Smith, lived near Camak. He was industrious and sensible, accumulated a good deal of property, and earned the respect and confidence of many friends, both white and colored. He married Hattie Jones, a daughter of Sing Jones. They had two daughters who left Warrenton to attend colleges in the North.

"Uncle Ned Simms" had many friends in Warren County. During slavery, he belonged to Mr. Curran Battle and held the office of carriage driver. When he was freed, he came to Warrenton and ran a hack line to and from the hotel to the station. He was reliable and trustworthy, and would have sacrificed his life in defense of his "fares." He married Lurindy, also a slave of Mr. Battle, and they had one son who inherited his father's hack business as well as his honesty and trustworthiness.

Among the most progressive and successful merchants of Warrenton was Charles Williams who operated a grocery store located just behind the Whiteley Dry Goods. He drew the white and colored trade for his goods were always the freshest and the best that the market afforded. He was the first person to bring ice to Warrenton. He had tickets with 2's, 3's, and 5's printed on them indicating that one could get that much ice. There were no refrigerators in use in Warren County and no automobiles, but one could walk to Charles Williams' store and usually get two pounds of ice for iced tea at the noon meal. What, if any, was left was wrapped in newspaper and then in an old blanket and put aside to make ice water in the afternoon. Then ice cream freezers were offered for sale by this same enterprising merchant, and housewives offered ice cream for their own tables. Charlie ran an ice cream parlor in connection with his store and had several freezers of three and five gallon capacities that he used for his business, as there were no wholesale ice cream manufacturers that served Warren County.

The first phonograph that ever came to Warrenton was bought by Charles

Williams. It was a small box-looking invention with earphones, and only one person at the time could listen.

Charles kept a delivery wagon drawn by a big, fat, bay horse, and his delivery boy was nurse maid for many a tot who spent hours in the wagon on his round. A five-cent purchase would carry the wagon joyfully to the remotest part of town, which at that time, was not too far.

In 1930, the United States Census of Population listed 11,181 residents of Warren County, of which 7351 were black. Since the economy of the county was based on agriculture, a predominant number of blacks were engaged in farm-related work. Share-cropping and tenant farming were common.

The home of the average black family in the 1930's was a small wooden structure, owned by the employer, and located on the farm. Houses were heated with wood cut from the landowner's forest; water was available from a well, usually located near the house; lighting was provided by kerosene lamps. Gardens provided an abundant supply of vegetables – green beans, squash, butterbeans, corn, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, onions, peppers, collards, cabbage, and even sugar cane. Corn was of great importance; it was eaten fresh during the summer; it was dried, ground into meal, and baked into bread. The dry corn could also be bleached and prepared as "lye hominy." Cows, pigs, and chickens were raised.

Between 1930 and 1940, the population of the County decreased by 945, of which 686 were blacks. The exodus was primarily to Northern cities where a different type of employment was available. Except for a few blacks employed in businesses in Warrenton, the blacks continued to live and work on farms.

With the coming of World War II, black citizens were drafted and served their country in every branch of the service.

During the late 40's and 50's, as more small industry moved into the Warren County area, the blacks began to change employment from the farms to the jobs available in industry. Farming also was changing, as more farm machinery decreased the need of farm labor.

By 1960, the popuiation shift from the county was quite evident. The United States Population Census showed 7360 residents of the county of which 4609 were black. The black community had begun to revise old patterns of living, to change employment, to become active in the political life of the county. More homes were privately owned, and more blacks bought farm land. The rapid period of social and economic change during the 1960's resulted in a loss of black citizens. During the 60's, the white population of Warren County decreased by only 23, while the black population declined by 668. By 1970, Warren County had a total count of 6669, of which 3941 were black.

Negroes of Warren County participate in county activities, but generally maintain their own culture. In the 1970's, they have been active in building new homes and acquiring property. The local property tax digest shows that whites paid $111,511.02 in 1964 while the blacks paid $6106.82. The 1974 property tax record for Warren County shows that in 1974 the blacks paid $44,425.95, and the whites paid $479,252.95.

Negroes continue to be successful in business and are respected by both the white and black community. Many have created for themselves a permanent respect. Among these are Mildred Freeman, who retired in 1966, having served as teacher and principal in the Warrenton Elementary and High

School for 33 years. Benny L. Swint, local merchant and shoe repairman, is the first Negro to serve on the Warren County Board of Education, appointed in 1971.

Negro Couple

Photo: E. H. Hightower

CHAPTER 11

LaFayette's Visit

Visit of General Lafayette

When General Lafayette, the distinguished Frenchman and friend of America, who assisted the forces of America in their struggle for independence came for the fourth and last time to this country, in 1824, he made a visit to Georgia, landing at Savannah.

His objective was Milledgeville, the Capital of Georgia at that time and his itinerary brought him through Warrenton.

Jacob Burkhalter, a resident of Warrenton and a member of the Revolutionary forces under General Clark, accompanied by several others, were waiting on the roadside several miles out to meet the distinguished visitor and give him honorable escort into the town.

The weather was very inclement, rainy, and cold and the General had taken a severe cold and was feeling very indisposed. He had become quite an old man for he was then nearing the allotted three score and ten years. Naturally he was not nearly so strong as he was when he came in 1777, for forty-seven years added had robbed him of his military hardihood.

He was conducted to the home of Jacob Burkhalter where he spent two weeks before he was able to continue his journey.

Jacob Burkhalter was living on Main Street in a house which has since been removed to another site and which is at present owned and occupied by Mr. G. W. Kitchens. It then stood where the home of Mrs. W. L. Shurley now stands.

Warrenton was not willing for so great an event as the visit of so important a personage to pass without giving some public demonstration of its pleasure, so a ball was arranged in his honor. It was given in the Allen home, now occupied by the family of Mrs. W. W. Pilcher, who is a great grand-daughter of Jacob Burkhalter.

The belles and beaux of Warrenton with powdered wigs and crinolines met, en masse, to do honor to the noble Marquis De Lafayette.

The knee trousers and silk hose which were worn by Mr. Burkhalter to

this ball are still in the possession of Mrs. Pilcher and are items of interest. The style of the trousers is a cross between those of the uniforms of the present day American soldier and sailor. They opened, in the front, like the trousers of the sailor boy and terminated in a close fit at the knee like the soldiers' trousers, but instead of being met by leggins or puttees, they were met by silk stockings with silver knee buckles. They were made by hand, of hand woven white linen which has long since become yellow with age, and the many button holes were a work of art. The stockings were a fine quality of real silk (rayon and artificial silk were not known in that day) and had clocks up the sides. They were worn with low-cut shoes and silver buckles.

Mrs. Saline Wright, who was then a very little girl, went with her mother to this ball and when taken on the knee of Lafayette and asked for a kiss jumped down and ran to her mother. When pressed for a reason for her rudeness in refusing to kiss the noble gentleman, she threw her arms around her mother's neck and confided in a whisper, "He is too ugly."

The Lafayette visit to Warrenton was researched by Delores B. Colquitt for the March, 1922, issue of the *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine.* In it Jacob Burkhalter's role in hosting Lafayette's two-week convalescence is discussed and reference is made to the glass mug which was presented to the Burkhalter family by Lafayette. This mug has been inherited recently by Dr. H. Wilbur Harper, Jr., of Macon.

CHAPTER 12

Wars

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

In 1860, preparations began in Warren County to enter the War Between the States in defense of the South. Though trouble had been brewing for some time, it was not taken very seriously in Warren County, for the idea prevailed that it would take only a short time to end the struggle and the sooner entered into the sooner it could be won. The men who should have known true conditions were saying, "We can lick the Yankees before breakfast." It would be a bloodless war, they believed, and one said, "I'll drink all the blood that is shed."

Though little remains in Warren County in the way of personal records, letters or diaries, military correspondence with the county reveals that there was feverish haste in preparation and impatient waiting for the companies to be called. Relating to mustering of men, election of officers and procurement of supplies, this correspondence illuminates war as Warren County had never before or has never since known.

From Warren County, which at that time included (parts of) McDuffie County, three companies were formed: The Warren Infantry, The McDuffie Rifles and The Gardner Volunteers. As early as May, 1860, arms were being either supplied by the Governor or purchased from funds made available by citizens who believed in the Confederate Cause and were confident of its victory. Very soon, however, arms became a problem. For the nonindustrial South, there were always more men than metal. In the end, there was not enough of either.

At the outset of the struggle the war moved of its own volition: enthusiasm, confidence, belief in the cause. In the correspondence which follows one can see the change in tone. The war machinery became well oiled and methodical in the task which both the North and South soon came to look on with reluctance and reality. But, there was no turning back.

Warrenton, January 16, 1861

His Excellency
Joseph E. Brown Gov.

Dear Sir:

I shall need for my company about twenty more Sabre Rifles such as I got in May last. The supply which I have (forty-five) will be exhausted in a few days, and as Recruits are coming every day I am anxious to have the arms ready for them. May I ask of you the favor to send them by express at your earliest convenience? – My company needs Knapsacks & Canteens. Will you authorize me to purchase them in Augusta? You will hardly think it necessary for me to say that my company is ready to respond cheerfully to any requisition Your Excellency may make upon us.

I have the honor to be Your Excellencys obt. Svt.

E. H. Pottle
Capt. Comp. McDuffie Rifles

Brevet officers were those elected "for a short time" in the county. After assignment to the Confederate Army, some were commissioned and others were not. Local units were generally kept together so that men from the same location fought side by side throughout the war.

Other correspondences and military records showing how rapidly and thoroughly preparation were made are also given:

State of Georgia
Warren County

At an Election held this day in the Town of Warrenton, in said county, for Commissioned and Non Commissioned officers of the Warren Guards, a volunteer company recently organized in said county, the following was the result for Commissioned officers.

For Captain, Joseph Wasden
For 1st Lieutenant Robert W. Hubert
For 2nd Lieutenant Robert R. Beck
For 3rd Lieutenant with rank of 2nd Isaac B. Huff

Given under my hand and seal and official signature this May 25th, 1861
William A. Ricketson (J.P.L.S.)

Warrenton, Ga. May 27, 1861

To his Excellency
Joseph E. Brown

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find certificate of Elections of officers for the Warren Guards, a Volunteer Corps recently formed at this place.

Also find my Bond for Guns and Accoutrements with Requisition and Receipt thereto attached. You will understand that the Enclosed Requisition and Bond embraces the same Arms which were received from you about one year ago by E.H. Pottle Capt. of the McDuffie Rifle Corp. of this place. We desire Commissions for the officers named in the enclosed Certificate. If the

enclosed Bond is satisfactory you can cancel and return the Bond of Capt. Pottle as for the responsibility of the obligors to said Bond if desired we can furnish you with ample evidence. We make it five hundred dollars because our recollection is that that was the amount of Capt. Pottle's Bond for same Arms. If there is any defect which we can cure, do me the kindness to inform me of it in order that it may be corrected. We have tried to purchase copies of Gilhams Manual for Volunteers and so far have been unable to do so. If Adjutant General has any he will spare we would be very thankful for two or three copies at least. If our bond and certificate of elections are satisfactory, please indicate it at as early a day as convenient.

Your most obt. avt.
Joseph Wasden

State of Georgia
BY ISAAC B. HUFF? Colonel Commanding 12th. Regiment of the last Brigade, 2nd. Division, G. M.

To John H. Hall Greeting:

WHEREAS, the persons liable to do military duty, in the 158 District G. M., failed to elect an Ensign at the election which was ordered,

Now, Know Ye, that reposing especial confidence in your patriotism, valor and fidelity, I do by these presents appoint you Ensign of the 158 District, G. M. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of Ensign as aforesaid.

Given under my hand and official signature, this September 12th, 1861.

E. A. Brinkley, Adjutant
Isaac B. Huff Colonel Commanding, 12th Reg. 1st. Brig. 2nd Div. G. M.

To H. C. Wayne
Adjt. Genl.
State of Georgia

BY ISAAC B. HUFF, Colonel Commanding 12th. Regiment of the 1st. Brigade, 2nd Division, G. M.

To John L. Usry Greeting:

WHEREAS, the persons liable to do military duty, in the 153 Dist. G. M., failed to elect a 1st. Lieutenant at the election which was ordered,

Now, Know Ye, that reposing especial confidence in your patriotism, valor and fidelity, I do by these presents appoint you 1st. Lieutenant of the 153 district, G. M. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of 1st. Lieutenant as aforesaid. This Commission to continue in force during your residence in the said district, for the space of one year or until your successor is elected. Given under my hand and official signature, this September 12th, 1861.

G. A. Brinkley, Adjutant

enclosed Bond is satisfactory you can cancel and return the Bond of Capt. Pottle as for the responsibility of the obligors to said Bond if desired we can furnish you with ample evidence. We make it five hundred dollars because our recollection is that that was the amount of Capt. Pottle's Bond for same Arms. If there is any defect which we can cure, do me the kindness to inform me of it in order that it may be corrected. We have tried to purchase copies of Gilhams Manual for Volunteers and so far have been unable to do so. If Adjutant General has any he will spare we would be very thankful for two or three copies at least. If our bond and certificate of elections are satisfactory, please indicate it at as early a day as convenient.

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G. A. Brinkley, Adjutant

MAYFIELD ACADEMY

This academy was incorporated December 26th, 1843. Thomas Whaley, Anthony Jones, Thomas L. Latimer, Sterling I. Pate, and William Harris were trustees for the Mayfield Academy in the county of Warren. In 1847, Prof. Bill Moss was teacher at Mayfield Academy. In 1848 W. H. Stokes taught. In 1853-1856 Professor Malcolm Jones was teacher. He was followed by Prof. Thomas Neel. He and Malcolm Jones were both graduates of Mercer Institute which afterward became Mercer University and was removed from its first site in Penfield to Macon. Prof. Alden was the next teacher. John W. Ellington taught all through the Civil War and on as late as 1872.

HARTVILLE ACADEMY

Hartville Academy was incorporated December 11, 1841. The Trustees were Samuel Hart, Isaac Hart, Jr., David Newsome, Peter Usry, and James Moore, Sr.

CLAXTON ACADEMY

An Act to incorporate the Claxton Academy, in the county of Warren, passed December 23rd, 1830. Hiram Hubert, Samuel Barksdale, Archibald Seals, Littleton Johnson, William Harrell, were appointed trustees of the Claxton Academy. Prof. James Claxton, a native of Virginia, had charge of this academy in 1830. Matthew Henry Hubert, Dr. Henry B. Barksdale, William Barksdale, Col. Daniel M. Seals, late of Eufaula, Ala., T. Jeff Barksdale and many others attended here.

UNION HILL ACADEMY

Section 1. – "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia in general assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that Aaron Johnson, Randolph Johnson, James Johnson, Harrison Reese and William G. Johnson be, and they are hereby appointed, trustees; and they and their successors in office are declared a body corporate by the name and style of the Union Hill Academy in the county of Warren." December 23rd, 1843.

BIRDSVILLE ACADEMY

Birdsville Academy was incorporated December 25th, 1837. Trustees were Jas. G. Swain, Jas. T. Dicken, Benj. B. Langham, Septumus Torrence and Jethro Darden. The house was furnished in the latter part of 1837 and was located near the residence of Jas. G. Swain, now known as the Thos. L. Atchinson place.

It was probably the nicest country academy ever built in the county up to that time. It was a good frame building, ceiled within and painted white. It had glass windows and green shutters. It was located on the road leading to Double Wells. It was named in honor of Ebenezer Bird, the father of Mrs. Jas. G. Swain. Matthew Henry Hubert was the first teacher in 1837, before the new house was completed. James Claxton had charge in 1838, and in 1839 and 1840 Prof. Stewart Beggs was principal. He was a native of Ireland